

SEVEN SECTIONS THE BEST VALUE SATURDAY PAPER

Bonfire of the Nineties

Start reading TOM WOLFE'S new novel

JANE MACQUITY

100

BEST SUMMER WINES

His likes and loves

page 3

by Charles Spencer

WEEKEND

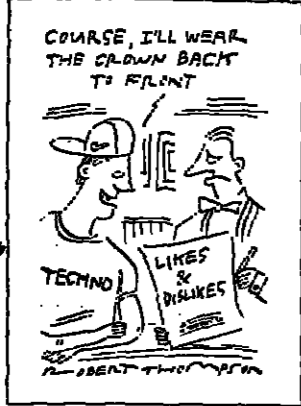
IN THE FREE GLOSSY MAGAZINE

THE TIMES

50P

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Birthday Prince tells of his love of sport and computer games



BY ALAN HAMILTON

ON THE EVE of his 16th birthday, Prince William today reveals himself as a typical shy teenager who enjoys pop music, sport and fast food, but who finds it difficult to deal with the adulation of a legion of swooning girls to whom he has become a pin-up.

The Prince has answered a series of written questions submitted by the Press Association news agency. Both questions and answers were vetted by St James's Palace, with the result that a diplomatic silence reigns over such key areas as

Prince William finds it difficult to handle the swooning adulation of teenage girls

favourite rock bands, or whether a Big Mac beats a Burger King. He does admit, however, that he is not always comfortable in the public eye, although, during a recent skiing holiday in British Columbia, the appeal of being squealed at by thousands of young female Canadians seemed to grow on him.

The Prince, who has recently finished sitting the last of 12 GCSE examinations at Eton, discloses that next term he will study for A levels

in geography, biology and the history of art, so giving himself the widest possible choice of options for a future university course. They are not, however, top-drawer options. Geography is likely to be the most testing of the three, while biology is the science that involves the least maths, and history of art is both a softer option and an esoteric one.

The Prince is being more ambitious than his father, who took only two A levels — in history and French — but which were still

enough to squeeze him into Trinity College, Cambridge.

Prince William says he is enjoying Eton, and particularly likes the college uniform of tailcoat and striped trousers.

A hero among some teenagers to rival Leonardo DiCaprio, the Prince may have put a slight dent in his credibility by admitting to a liking for "techno" as well as classical music.

The cutting edge of teen culture regards techno as several years

behind the times. He further stands out from the average 16-year-old by not owning his own computer, although he admits to enjoying computer games.

Prince William shares with his father an enjoyment of writing letters, although he also says he likes keeping in touch with family and friends by telephone. He does not say whether he reverses the charges.

Submitting to a personal question-and-answer session of the kind

employed by teenage magazines on pop stars is an unusual concession by a member of the Royal Family. The Palace is extremely anxious to maintain Prince William's privacy, particularly following the momentous tragedy of his mother's death last August. But it recognises a legitimate public interest in the future King.

Since the Prince went to Eton three years ago, press and broadcasting organisations have largely abided by an unwritten agreement not to intrude on his schooling.

Birthday boy, page 3

Blair sends old friends and allies to the Lords

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND JAMES LANDALE

TONY BLAIR'S staunchest supporter in the world of television, Melvyn Bragg, and Waheed Alli, the young Asian entrepreneur, head the new list of working peers announced today by Downing Street.

Mr Bragg helped to raise £79,000 with two senior colleagues at London Weekend Television to bankroll Mr Blair's Labour leadership campaign in 1994. Mr Alli, 34, a multimillionaire who will be the youngest life peer in the Upper House, is a major donor to party funds. The television mogul, who launched *The Big Breakfast* show for Channel 4 which brought Chris Evans to prominence, makes Labour's party political broadcasts free of charge. He is a close friend of the Prime Minister.

Other allies of Mr Blair have been rewarded. They include Brian Mackenzie, a former police superintendent, who was a key adviser when Mr Blair was the Shadow Home Secretary.

Christopher Haskins, the chairman of Northern Foods, another significant donor, is also included in a list that was dubbed "Tony's cronies" by the Conservatives. Mr Haskins, a lifelong Labour supporter, was one of the first influential businessmen publicly to endorse Mr Blair.

The 18 Labour peers were forced to give an unprecedented undertaking that they would make regular appearances in the House of Lords as a condition of accepting their titles.

The commitment was sought because of the poor voting record of the peers created by the Prime Minister last year. But the move was dismissed by the Tories last night as a stunt. None of the new peers was compelled to say how many hours a week they would be prepared to spend in the Upper House.

Two of the new peers are MEPs who will have to combine Westminster duties with their commitments in Brussels. Mr Alli, 34, works a 16-hour day as head of Planet 24 Television. Mr Haskins is a full-time businessman and Mr Bragg a prolific author and broadcaster.

"How much time will Tony's friends be able to spend in the House of Lords?" one senior Conservative asked last night. "This is payback time. This is Britain's answer to the Tony awards."

The 18 names nominated by the Prime Minister also drew from the worlds of public relations, the trade unions and the Labour movement. The 27-name list of life peers, which was approved by the Queen, include five nominated by William Hague, the Tory leader, and four by Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader.

They include Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, who was snubbed in John Major's resignation honours last year. Mr Lamont confirmed yesterday that he would use his new platform to campaign against Britain's entry into a single currency.

Sir Tim Bell, one of the most politically influential advertising gurus of his generation, is also elevated to the Upper House. Sir Tim, who was a key figure in the 1997 election campaign, was also a surprise omission from Mr Major's list.

The appointment of new working peers is another step in the Government's programme to redress the political imbalance in the Lords. It is

Continued on page 2, col 4



Anna Kournikova, 17, withdrew from the Eastbourne tennis tournament yesterday with a thumb injury. The Russian said she wanted to be ready for Wimbledon next week. Page 40

Police reject Hoddle claim of arrest plot

BY OLIVER HOLT AND ADRIAN LEE

BRITISH security chiefs last night condemned a suggestion by the England coach, Glenn Hoddle, that police encouraged the rioting in Marseilles so they could identify and arrest the ringleaders.

In his outburst at a press conference at the England team's headquarters yesterday, Mr Hoddle said police may have let English hooligans start trouble so they could jail or deport them at the start of the World Cup tournament. "Who knows, we might have let it happen to arrest them. Have we thought about that?" he said.

The England coach said he was praising the security forces for a cunning undercover plot. "It is strange that those people who were arrested, the police knew who they were but they need a reason to arrest them so who's to say that half wasn't planned if there was trouble."

Those behind the scenes

were appalled by Mr Hoddle's comments. A spokesman for the National Criminal Intelligence Service said: "That is utter nonsense. You can rest assured that our tactics do not include encouraging hundreds of drunken yobs wreck half a city so we can grab a handful of known ringleaders."

British officers said they will spend the weekend searching for 90 England fans who were filmed taking part in the violence in Marseilles.

Last night the French dropped the idea of erecting security fences at the match in Toulouse on Monday after complaints from the FA and football's governing body, FIFA.

Expulsion threat, page 8
Tale of the faces, page 9
Ben Macintyre, page 22
Letters, page 23
World Cup, pages 33, 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39

WEATHER.....32
CROSSWORD.....32
COURT & SOCIAL.....24
LETTERS.....23
OBITUARIES.....25
SIMON JENKINS.....22
THEATRES.....21
BUSINESS NEWS.....27-31
UNIT TRUSTS.....53
SHARE PRICES.....26
WEEKEND MONEYS.....4-64
SPORT.....33-48

WEEKEND
GARDENING.....9-10
PROPERTY.....11-14
TRAVEL.....27-35
FAITH.....18

Woodward family paid by 'Mail'

BY RAYMOND SNODDY

THE *Daily Mail* newspaper last night admitted paying Louise Woodward's parents a substantial sum, believed to be £40,000, in 1997 for an interview after their daughter had been convicted in America of second-degree murder.

The payment was in contravention of the rules of the Press Complaints Commission, the newspaper industry regulatory body, that convicted criminals or their families should not benefit from newspaper payments — unless proven to be in the public interest.

The British au pair has said that she has no intention of exploiting the death of eight-month-old Matthew Eappen. Diary, page 22

Queen backs early release of secret royal documents

BY RICHARD FORD AND VALERIE ELLIOTT

THE Queen has agreed to end the rule that kept government papers relating to the Royal Family secret for between 75 and 100 years.

The drive by the Palace for more openness has already resulted in a steady trickle of papers from government departments about the Royal Family, and disputes over pay and conditions for staff.

But the new attitude does not extend to papers covering the Abdication of Edward VIII or to documents which disclose the personal opinions of members of the Royal Family.

An unwritten Whitehall rule is understood to bar the release of secret government papers on the Abdication

Secret papers released at the Public Record Office in New show that the Royal Family returned to the capital with 334 bottles of Best London Dry Gin after their trip to South Africa in 1947. Customs battle, page 20

while the Queen Mother, whose husband succeeded to the throne, is alive.

Anne Crawford of the Public Record Office, which receives the documents, said: "The Queen has said that as far as she is concerned, anything relating to the Royal Family in official government records can be released after the standard 30 years closure." She added that Buckingham

Palace had said papers should only be closed for longer if Whitehall officials believed it would be inappropriate for them to be made public.

Civil servants have been told that if they have doubts about releasing a file relating to the Royal Family, guidance should be sought from the Royal Archives at Windsor, where all the family's personal documents and private correspondence are stored.

The attitude of the Queen has led to a number of papers being released. Treasury files published earlier this year disclosed how the spectre of staff militancy at Buckingham Palace after the Second World War led to a union branch being set up for employees.

Nothing to declare, page 20

East to have best of the heatwave

THE good news is that the heatwave is coming but the bad news is that only a third of the country will enjoy it (Deborah Colecut writes).

Meteorologists expect sunshine in the east, from southern Yorkshire to the Isle of Wight, with temperatures reaching 31C (88F), but thundery showers elsewhere. Monkeys at Marwell Zoo, Hampshire, were fed frozen bananas yesterday.

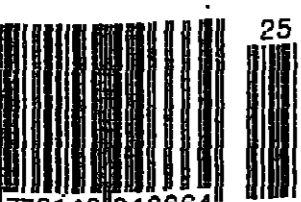
Forecast, page 32

Vintage Moment
Vintage Clicquot

Veuve Clicquot

CHAMPAGNE OF THE SEASON

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Portugal con Esc 300; Spain Ptas 325;
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NEXT WEEK IN THE TIMES



MONDAY Under the skin of sport Wimbledon 16 PAGE SPECIAL REPORT

World Cup: Follow the finest team to Toulouse for England's big game with Romania

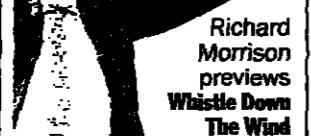
TUESDAY

Bevan's baby 50 years of the National Health Service celebrated

Hurt in love Noreen Taylor meets John Hurt

WEDNESDAY

Can Lloyd Webber do it again?



Richard Morrison previews Whistle Down The Wind

Inter//face

INTERNET FLIGHT OFFER fly easyJet from £34 return

THURSDAY

Films: Jennifer Aniston after Friends

SATURDAY

JANE MACQUITY 00 BEST SUMMER WINES

Six living in shadow of CJD win £500,000

By MARK HENDERSON

SIX people who live in fear of developing Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, after treatment with contaminated human growth hormone as children, were awarded a total of more than £500,000 yesterday.

The High Court, sitting at Lincoln Crown Court, ruled that the Department of Health was liable for the deteriorating psychiatric health of the six since learning that CJD could have been passed on to them in hormone extracted from the pituitary glands of corpses.

Although none has the disease, Mr Justice Morland ruled that they suffered from "rational fears" of one day "succumbing to a ghastly lingering death from CJD".

He said: "No amount of psychotherapy or counselling can obliterate the truth. Each plaintiff remains indefinitely at risk of CJD, which is inevitably fatal and not subject to amelioration or treatment."

The decision opens the way for up to 40 payouts to others living under the shadow of the illness after being treated with potentially contaminated hormones. The Department has been ruled liable for claims resulting from treatment with hormone derived from corpses after July 1977, when doctors had evidence that it was unsafe.

Between 1959 and 1985 nearly 2,000 children whose growth was stunted were treated with the hormone. Of these, 27 have developed CJD, all but two of whom have died.

The largest award, of £300,000, went to Paul Andrews, 32, who gave up a career in advertising. He had been earning £35,000 a year, plus a company car and bonuses, and had ambitions to stand for Parliament as a Conservative. He has retrained as a primary teacher.

He said after the judgment: "The threat of CJD is something that lives with you all the time. With each new tragedy, you can't help but think, is it me next?"

David Lockhart, 27, from Newmarket, Suffolk, was awarded £13,000. His career as a jockey at the stables of the champion trainer Henry Cecil was ruined by fear of CJD, which left him unable to ride.

Claire Johnston, 29, from Cheddle, Staffordshire, won £16,000 after telling the court that she would not have children because of the risk of passing on the disease in the womb. Her brother, Philip Johnston, 25, a nurse from Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, received £26,000.

Neil Scanlon, 36, a former factory worker from Ebbw Vale, South Wales, won £160,000 and Justin Parkes, 27, a chef from Essex, £3,500.



Christopher Haskins: food chief recruited to Lords

Blair rewards allies

Continued from page 1 Mr Blair's second list of working peers and more are expected. The Government is committed to introducing legislation that would strip hereditary peers, who are overwhelmingly Tory, of their voting rights.

The balance of power after the new peers have been introduced will be 476 Tory peers against Labour's 176. The Liberal Democrats will have 70 and there will be 323 crossbenchers. After Labour's expulsion of the hereditary peers, the Tories will be down to 174 life peers against Labour's 158.

But the Conservatives, who were regularly accused by Labour of linking honours with political favours and donations, attacked the list.

Michael Ancram, the Tory deputy chairman, said all the new nominees could "be relied on to do exactly what the Prime Minister tells them. They are Tony's cronies. New Labour has made no secret of its intention to turn the House of Lords into a government poolee."

Downing Street emphasised that the Labour nominees had been selected for their hard work on behalf of the party, and were expected to make an active contribution as working peers. Among others chosen by Labour are Norman Warner, senior policy adviser to Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, and Tom Sawyer, the party's outgoing general secretary.

South Bank set, page 18 Entrepreneur recruit, page 19 Leading article, page 23

Norris is Hague's favourite for mayor

By NICHOLAS WOOD

STEVEN NORRIS, the maverick former minister, has emerged as William Hague's favoured candidate in the race to become London's first elected mayor.

Mr Norris, 53, only narrowly survived as Transport Minister for London in John Major's Government after it emerged that he had five mistresses.

However, senior Tory sources said that Mr Norris, now heading the Road Haulage Association, had been "straightforward and honest" in dealing with the questions surrounding his private life. They indicated that Mr Hague regarded him as the best of the Conservative hopefuls.

The Tory leadership's tacit backing for Mr Norris will be a blow to Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, whose hopes have been damaged by the resurrection of allegations about his business dealings and his personal history. The 58-year-old millionaire novelist faces an investigation by the Conservative Party's new ethics committee.

Officially, Mr Hague will not endorse any candidate, leaving it to party members in the capital to choose their candidate for an election due for the middle of 2000. But his unspoken support will boost Mr Norris's prospects.

Mr Norris, who lives in London with Emma Courtney but remains married to his wife, Vicky, has not announced his intention to run. However, he has already jokingly described himself as the "ABA" candidate - the Anything But Archer candidate - and is planning to declare his hand in September.

Children helped to be court witnesses

The difficulties for children of giving evidence in court are to be eased under guidelines issued yesterday by the Lord Chief Justice and the Director of Public Prosecutions. More than 6,000 copies of *The Young Witness Pack*, with a pop-up courtroom, have been issued to police forces to help them to prepare children for a court ordeal.

The pack is published by the National Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Children, and *ChildLine*, with funding from several government departments. Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, said: "The prospect of attending court to give evidence can be very worrying for young witnesses. *The Young Witness Pack* provides valuable information for them in straightforward language, telling them what they should expect and what will be expected of them."

Expelled Tories protest

Two senior Tory activists are planning a complaint to party leaders after being expelled for challenging the alleged takeover of their local party by a religious group. Tony Galbraith, a college lecturer, and Tony Donnelly, a company director, were voted out by Brentwood and Ongar Conservatives on Thursday night for urging residents to vote against the party in protest at its links with Pentecostal Church. More than 200 members of the church have joined the local Conservative association.

Gallery director goes

The director of Glasgow's art galleries and museums has resigned after failing to secure a £71,000 post as head of the city's culture and leisure services. Julian Spalding, 49, whose ten-year reign generated an unprecedented level of discord within the Scottish arts world, is to stand down at the end of August. He is expected to receive a payoff of about £100,000 and a pension of £30,000 a year. Mr Spalding said he hoped that the heated discussions he provoked would prove a lasting legacy.

Call to privatise opera

The Royal Opera House should be privatised rather than have its £15 million subsidy doubled, Gerald Kaufman, who chaired the Culture Select Committee's scathing report on Covent Garden, said yesterday. He spoke out after a letter leaked to *The Times* revealed that the ROH was threatening to close for ever unless the Government agreed to the extra funding. Mr Kaufman said: "If that's the only way they can operate - give it more money or close - then maybe the best solution is to privatise it."

Lord Neill criticised

A decision by Lord Neill of Bladen, QC, right, the public standards watchdog, to act for Dame Shirley Porter over the "homes for votes" gerrymandering scandal was criticised in the Commons yesterday by Labour MP Andrew Dismore. However Lord Neill said he had accepted the case strictly on the Bar's "cab-rank" principle. Downing Street said there was no pressure on him to drop the case.



Christie 'trained hard'

Linford Christie's coach told a High Court libel jury that an article alleging that the former world champion took drugs was a "fairy story". Ron Roddan, 67, said a suggestion in an article by John McVicar in *Spiked* that the Olympic gold medalist's impressive physique may have been due to taking banned substances was ridiculous. "I was around most of the time and it was just bloody hard work. He would train at least six days a week," his coach said. The hearing continues.

Advertisement for BT Ring Back service. Features a large number 5 and the slogan 'Let BT try, try and try again.' Includes contact information and a BT logo.

Advertisement for Which? Online. Promotes a 30-day free trial with no obligation. Lists benefits like unlimited internet access and a CD-ROM. Includes a form to request the trial.

Advertisement for habitat sale. Features a drawing of a leather sofa and text: 'Special Purchase Java leather sofa £599. Starts today 9.30am. For the location and opening times of your nearest store telephone 0645 334433.'

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Birthday boy will celebrate 16th with his pals

Rite of passage for the Prince of all teenagers

Prince William's cautious answers to a series of stock teenager questions show him to be the sort of youth that any parent would be proud to call his own. The picture contrasts sharply with that of the average European teenager drawn up by an international consultancy.

Europe's young people are preoccupied with sex, leading hedonistic lives in which they live for the moment. They rate having a good social life as their priority, and agree with the pop star's Noel Gallagher's assertion that taking drugs is as normal as having a cup of tea. At least that is the outcome of a CNA survey of 500 young people in 16 European countries.

Those questioned showed little desire to change the world, not much passion for politics, and an "enjoy it while you can" mentality. They drank less alcohol than their parents but experimented more with drugs. Sex was an obsession, and few would be likely to agree with Prince William's admission of discomfort at being surrounded by adoring teenage girls.

The picture of Prince William, however, will doubtless please his army of young fans: it will certainly please his father, who has had to direct a delicate balancing act over the last ten months to ensure the welfare of his elder son, whilst acknowledging a legitimate public demand for an occasional sighting or tippet of information about the boy.

Throughout William's

Alan Hamilton on a milestone in the life of a modest youth who is the source of much royal pride

school career so far, the overriding desire of the Prince of Wales, and of William, has been for privacy, to allow him to study and grow up in the most normal possible atmosphere. After the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, the need became even greater, and to help to safeguard the young Prince, the Press Complaints Commission guidelines of media intrusion were noticeably tightened.

Generally, the media has behaved towards William at Eton in a fashion that borders on the exemplary. The reward has been the occasional disci-

sure or picture, slow-release and carefully rationed.

The Prince was forced into the limelight last autumn on the death of his mother, and was widely praised for the dignity and fortitude with which he bore the walk behind her coffin in the funeral procession. Inside Westminster Abbey, with the cameras banned from close-up shots, the composure quietly and briefly broke to pieces.

By earlier this year, the Prince appeared much better able to face the crowds. During a skiing holiday in the Rockies, the Prince of Wales

and his two sons agreed to a brief public engagement in Vancouver, attended by thousands of screaming girls swearing their undying love for William. He was initially embarrassed, but began to relax and indulged in some modest clowning with his father.

Such public appearances by William will remain severely rationed and but he is unlikely to undertake any solo public duties until he graduates.

St James's Palace yesterday also released some hitherto-unpublished details of Prince William's earlier school career. At the age of three at his nursery school, teachers reported that he was very keen on reading and, despite being left-handed, loved writing his name. He acted in two plays, watched by his parents and brother, and sang solo.

According to the royal records, "Prince William was very popular with the other children, and was known for his kindness, sense of fun and quality of thoughtfulness."

At his junior school he had a flair for English and spelling. At Ludgrove, his preparatory school, he continued to show his writing flair by winning the Junior Essay Prize in 1992, and his caring nature by taking part in sponsored walks for the elderly.

His birthday tomorrow will be a poignant milestone, being his first since the death of his mother. St James's Palace said he would spend it with friends in privacy at an unspecified location, and would speak to his family by telephone.

THIS IS MY LIFE

Likes: Eton College, tail-coats, striped trousers, writing letters, phoning family and friends, action films at the cinema

Dislikes: being a pin-up and dealing with female teenage adulation

Favourite sports: rugby, football, swimming, water polo, tennis

Favourite reading: action-adventure fiction and non-fiction

Favourite clothes: modern styles, and is old enough to shop for himself

Favourite music: techno and some classical

Favourite band: couldn't possibly comment

Least favourite band: ditto

Best friends at Eton: ditto

Favourite food: simple dishes and fast food

Ambition: to go on safari in Africa, as Harry did last year

Regret: enjoying computer games, but not having a computer of his own

Pets: widgeon, a black Labrador bitch. Likes horses

Preferred university: pass

THE WORLD'S COOLEST TEEN MAY BE POSSIBLY

Unmarried!

LIKES:

Eton, writing letters, phoning family and friends, action films

DISLIKES:

Being a pin-up and dealing with teenage girl fans

Fwoar!

Fwoar!

PASSIONS:

Techno, fast food and computer games

WILLS!

JUNE 1998 PRICELESS



Cover guy: how a teen magazine might splash William across its front page (with apologies to J-17)

Behind the beat and out of time

BY ADAM FRESKO

PRINCE WILLIAM'S love of techno music yesterday gave him away as someone not quite up with the times.

The fusion of computerised and synthesised beats with no vocals had its heyday in the early 1990s. There are no techno singles in the Top 40 and the last big chart hit was *No Limit* by the Dutch group 2 Unlimited way back in January 1993.

It is a branch of dance music that came out of the "house" movement in the 1980s and has recently been overtaken by the faster beat of drum and bass.

The coolest sounds this summer are "old school" hip hop tracks from the early 1980s, described as soft rap. One of the most promising bands is a hip hop band from New York called Company Flow.

Michelle Garnet, deputy editor of *Top of the Pops Magazine*, said Prince William was brave to admit to liking techno.

"I think he may be trying too hard to be cool and instead of narrowing his taste down to techno music he may have meant he likes

MUSIC



Anita Doth of 2 Unlimited

dance music in general and just got the wrong term.

"It is not fair to say listening to techno is uncool it is just that there are other music trends that have taken over in the past few years that are deemed to be more cool."

"If he really wanted to be cool he should have said that he likes hip hop which is a soft form of rap and will be all the rage this summer. To improve his street cred he should buy the new Beastie Boys album next month called *Hello Nasty*."

"Techno is still listened to in clubs in Europe, particularly Germany but there isn't any in our charts at the moment."

Dave Pearce, the Radio 1 DJ who hosts a programme called *Dance Anthems* on Sunday, said: "If he is into the latest techno bands he is going the right way."

Tougher in father's day Complaint about press intrusion ends 'amicably' Spencer has 'no regrets' over speech at funeral

BY ALAN HAMILTON

AT THE age of 16, Prince William's father was shy, lonely and far from happy amid the rigours of Gordonstoun. He shared neither his son's taste for pop culture, being altogether more high-brow, nor his love of sport.

Gordonstoun never suited Charles's temperament, as Eton seems to suit William's: it had been the idea of the Duke of Edinburgh, who believed that his son should be educated as far away as possible from Fleet Street, in a regime that would toughen his character.

He was kept out of the public eye: his only official engagement during his entire schooldays was to attend Sir Winston Churchill's funeral. Whenever possible at weekends, he would escape to Balmoral to tell his troubles to his grandmother.

Prince Charles disliked rugby, although he took well enough to sailing in *Pinta*, the school yacht. But he found his true confidence on the stage. A new English teacher, Eric Anderson — later to become Head Master of Eton and mentor of Tony Blair at Eton College — introduced drama to Gordonstoun and cast him in the title role of *Macbeth*. It was, Anderson said, the finest amateur or professional portrayal of the part he had seen.

With no encouragement from his father, he sought to take up music. He was forbidden the bagpipes, toyed with the trumpet, and eventually found his *metier* in the cello. At the age of 16, Prince



The Prince on a skiing holiday in December 1964

Charles sat seven O levels. He passed English language, English literature, Latin, French and history, but failed mathematics and physics. He conquered mathematics at a second attempt and went to take A levels in history and French, just sufficient to squeeze him into Trinity College, Cambridge.

Although he found trying to come to grips with the hairy-chested ethos of Gordonstoun difficult, he absorbed many

of the lessons of the school's German founder, Kurt Hahn, as shown by his strong sense of community and concern for others.

But it was Australia, not the bleak coast of Morayshire, that was the making of him. He spent a term at Timbertop, an outpost of Geelong Grammar School, Melbourne, where the easy-going egalitarian outlook of his classmates finally allowed him to enjoy his schooldays.

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

A COMPLAINT from St James's Palace about a supplement on Prince William published in *The Mail on Sunday* had been "resolved amicably", the Press Complaints Commission said yesterday.

Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Commission, said yesterday that all newspapers have been exemplary in respecting Prince William's physical privacy during his time at Eton, in line with the Commission's code of practice. However, he said that in view of the complaint about *The Mail on Sunday*: "I will be reminding the industry of the terms of its Code on these matters and of the continuing need to avoid such intrusions into his (Prince William's) privacy."

Prince William made a formal complaint this week through his office in St James's Palace about aspects of the supplement, which was published to mark his 16th birthday.

The supplement was edited in secrecy by Christine Appleyard who is on a 12-month consultancy contract worth an estimated £125,000. She reported directly to Jonathan Holborow, the *Mail on Sunday* editor.

One passage in the supplement particularly angered the Prince of Wales. It suggested there was a "vetting" process

for young girls who might be invited to have tea with Prince William. The Palace also objected to descriptions of Prince William's bedroom and bathroom, and was concerned that calls had been made to his Eton contemporaries and that photographs had been sought.

Mr Holborow went to St James's Palace on Thursday with a legal adviser. It is likely that apologies were given and assurances made about future behaviour to enable the complaint to be withdrawn.

It has been a bad few weeks for Mr Holborow. Last month *The Mail on Sunday* printed a front-page apology after reporting falsely that the actress Brooke Shields had been searched for drugs in Nice.

One *Mail on Sunday* journalist said yesterday that while Sir David English, who died this month, was understanding about the Brooke Shields story on the grounds that mistakes can happen to anyone, "he would have been livid about this one (the William complaint)". Sir David was chairman of Associated Newspapers, the owners of *The Mail on Sunday*. As chairman of the Press Complaints Commission's Editors' Code committee, he was influential in drawing up the rules to protect the privacy of the young princes while they were growing up.

BY DANIEL MCGRODY

EARL SPENCER'S refusal in a television documentary next week to apologise for his attack on the Royal Family in his oration at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, is certain to widen the rift between them.

The earl says he has "no regrets" about his criticism of the Royal Family's behaviour towards his sister. The two families have already said they will spend the August anniversary of the Princess's death hundreds of miles apart.

The earl says he agreed to the BBC documentary to mark his renovation work at his *Althorp* estate, which opens to the public on July 1. It is expected the Earl will accompany the Prince of Wales and his two sons when they visit the Princess's grave next month.

The Palace is obviously sensitive to further criticism and will be angered that while Lord Spencer has joined in condemnation of endless television coverage of his sister, he is co-operating with a 45-minute programme.

There is likely to be criticism that the Earl allowed the BBC to use footage of his sister as a child, taken from their father's home videos.

Weekend, page 1

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Accused foster father tells of Billie-Jo's tantrums

Murdered schoolgirl is said to have ripped heads off dolls in early years with family, reports Joanna Bale

IN THE first years that the murdered schoolgirl Billie-Jo Jenkins spent with her foster family, she was a difficult girl who destroyed clothing, hurt herself and ripped the heads off dolls, her foster father told a court yesterday.

Sion Jenkins, who denies killing her, was giving evidence for the first time. Asked by Richard Camden Pratt, QC, for the prosecution, to describe the 13-year-old girl, he replied: "She could be impatient." Asked to elaborate, there was a long silence before Mr Jenkins said: "She would simply say so. She would display her impatience."

Pressed on whether Billie-Jo could be difficult, he said: "That was when Billie first came to us, and she had many difficulties and she had many

problems and many things that she had to cope with, and over the years those receded."

As her natural parents, Bill Jenkins (no relation) and Debbie Woods, who are estranged, stared intently from the public gallery at Lewes Crown Court. Mr Jenkins added: "Billie was with us for five years and in the initial years that Billie was with us she was a difficult girl and that was shown in her behaviour, when she would simply destroy items of clothing or hurt herself, ripping the heads off dolls."

Mr Pratt: "She could be disobedient?" Mr Jenkins: "If she was asked to do something, she might not do it. And if she did something, she might become impatient."

He said that on the day before the murder, he dis-



Billie-Jo: "She could be impatient"

agreed with Billie-Jo and his four natural daughters a list of jobs they could do to earn extra money, included washing cars, painting, sweeping and gardening. Painting was the "more glamorous job" because it was something they had not done before. It meant painting the two French-window doors and he agreed it was a "difficult job" to get a straight line by the glass.

Mr Jenkins denied having a disagreement with his wife.

doors. Asked repeatedly how it was decided to give Billie-Jo the job, Mr Jenkins said: "It wasn't a question of having to choose. Billie-Jo was more appropriately dressed."

Mr Pratt asked Mr Jenkins why he had not reported any attempted break-in when a pane of glass had been broken in the patio windows and the door forced open. "Because I think we had had so much trouble and nothing had been done. The marks on the door will still be there."

Earlier, Mr Jenkins was called to the witness box by Anthony Scrivener, QC, defending, who asked: "Did you kill Billie-Jo Jenkins?" Mr Jenkins: "No - I did not kill Billie-Jo." Mr Scrivener told the judge he had finished his questioning and sat down, after an exchange that had lasted seven seconds.

Mr Jenkins denies bludgeoning Billie-Jo with a metal tent spike as she painted the patio doors at the family home in Hastings, East Sussex, in February last year. The case continues.



Sion Jenkins leaving court yesterday. He denied Billie-Jo had called his wife a bitch

Crippled man loses £620,000 payout

By A CORRESPONDENT

A MAN who at the age of 14 was crushed beneath an abandoned boat on council-owned land, leaving him wheelchair-bound, was stripped yesterday of £620,000 compensation.

Justin Jolley, 22, was left with nothing when the Court of Appeal ruled that the London Borough of Sutton could not be held responsible for the tragedy, which had stemmed from a childhood quest to sail away to join pirates in Cornwall.

The Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf, said Justin's "suffering has been immense" since April 1990 when the boat, which had been abandoned to rot, fell on him while he and a friend were trying to renovate it on a plot of open land in North Cheam. "Nonetheless the appeal has to be allowed," he added.

The court ruled that, although the council had admitted negligence, it could not reasonably have foreseen that Justin and his friend would jack up the boat and climb underneath it.

Lord Woolf said Justin and his friend, Karl Warnham, decided to try and renovate the boat and take it to Cornwall "because that was where pirates were to be found".

Internet girl back home after elopement

By JOANNA BALE

AN AMERICAN lawyer has pledged to wait for the British schoolgirl he eloped with after they met on the Internet, despite being banned by a judge from contacting her.

Kelly Fury, 16, was back at home in Abergavenny, South Wales, yesterday with her parents, Geoff and Sally Ann, who have taken legal action to stop her seeing David Holford, 34, from Indianapolis.

Police arrested Mr Holford on suspicion of abducting Kelly after the pair headed for Gretna Green. They confirmed that he is known to the FBI. He was being questioned by detectives last night.

Mr Holford declared his love for the schoolgirl in a letter to her family. He said he was "certainly willing to wait for Kelly to finish school and grow more before I would consider establishing a more permanent relationship".

Kelly's uncle, Roger Fury, 36, said: "The whole family is very pleased that she is safe and well. We all think it's very odd that a man at that age should strike up a relationship with a young, innocent girl then travel thousands of miles to meet her and entice her away from her family."

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THE SUNDAY TIMES
LIFE AFTER GERI



6 Their story vividly reflects the hysteria which has been building up in Britain over the past decade...

In the back of a tour bus in Florida, Philip Norman conducts the first interview with the Spice Girls since their "leader" defected, and hears their thoughts on Geri, arguments and life as a foursome.

News Review. The Sunday Times tomorrow

Error on release dates may cost prisons £25m

Thousands could follow former inmate awarded £5,000 for false imprisonment, says Richard Ford

A WOMAN won compensation of £5,000 yesterday for being kept in prison longer than she should have been. After the test case in the Court of Appeal, the Prison Service could have to pay out £25 million to thousands of prisoners similarly affected.

The court ruled that Michelle Evans, a convicted burglar, was entitled to the money for being falsely imprisoned: she was held in jail for 59 extra days because prison staff miscalculated her release date.

The award followed a ruling by the Lord Chief Justice in November 1996 that the Prison Service's method of deducting time spent on remand for concurrent sentences was flawed. His ruling overturned decisions dating from 1982.

Within minutes of yesterday's judgment, delivered by Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, lawyers for the Government were given leave to mount a challenge in the House of Lords to a ruling that is likely to place an enormous financial burden on the Prison Service. Lawyers said last night that the number of

former prisoners involved in compensation claims could run into tens of thousands.

Lord Woolf, sitting with Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Judge, reversed by a majority a High Court ruling that prison governors could not be held liable to pay compensation because their method of calculating release dates was based on earlier court decisions.

Ms Evans, from South Wales, had claimed damages against the governor of Brockhill prison at Redditch, Worcestershire. She was serving two years concurrently for burglary, actual bodily harm and assault. She had approached a woman in the Grange town area of Cardiff and torn an engagement ring from her finger and two gold chains from her neck. Ms Evans was not in court and

John Dickinson, her solicitor, declined to disclose her whereabouts.

Lord Woolf said the governor of Brockhill was not personally at fault. He could not have released Ms Evans earlier than he did because he was carrying out his duty to apply the law as it then stood.

In a written judgment, he said that it was a deeply embedded principle of English law that a person imprisoned without lawful authority was entitled to damages, irrespective of any fault on the part of the person responsible.

Lord Judge said a prisoner was entitled as of right to be released as soon as the sentence was completed. For the prison authorities to escape liability for an extended period of detention on the basis that they were acting honestly or on reasonable grounds would

reduce the law's protection against false imprisonment. "That step cannot be undertaken by this court," he said.

The case arose out of events in 1996 when 541 inmates serving consecutive sentences were released early before a furious Michael Howard, the then Home Secretary, demanded a halt until the law had been clarified.

Mr Howard's decision was upheld in court, but the ruling led to a challenge by Ms Evans over the calculation of release dates for those serving concurrent sentences. She won her case and the Lord Chief Justice ruled that the traditional method of calculation was wrong.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said after yesterday's ruling: "The compensation claims from former prisoners could be more than £25 million. This will put a huge burden on the Prison Service and the Treasury should make the extra cash available so that the service does not have to find money from other areas."



Emma Thompson at the charity Alone in London, where she hopes to help out

Young homeless provide new role for Oscar winner

By VALERIE ELLIOTT

EMMA THOMPSON has started charity work in a dingy building near King's Cross station in London to help the young homeless.

The Oscar-winning actress has taken a year out to concentrate on writing a film script, but the plight of youngsters sleeping on the streets has drawn her to sign up as a charity worker.

She hopes to spend at least one day a fortnight at Alone in London writing fundraising letters, answering telephones and helping young people who find themselves in the capital without a roof or bed.

Crouched on the floor chatting to a number of young homeless girls, the actress was clearly moved by their plight: "I have met more brave, upfront, very direct people among these young people than I have in a very long time. People seem to reject people without a home as somehow not a human being, but we are not snails and we do not come with shells attached."

Thompson was brought up in West Hampstead, north-west London, the daughter of Eric Thompson, creator of *The Magic Roundabout*, and the actress Phyllida Law. "I have had the most stable

background and, when I think of the bottom lines of life, a home is definitely one of them," she said.

She said that the young homeless were at their most despairing when they first spent a night in one of the capital's shelters. She plans to make occasional night-time visits to the hostels, but said: "They will probably end up comforting me. I know I will unwind with them, especially if I have had terrible reviews."

The charity uses trained negotiators to try to get the youngsters to return to their families. They try to reason with parents and work through problems. Nearly 30 people a day come looking for a bed; up to 80 may need advice or counselling.

This week Thompson is to record an answerphone message for the charity and then will start planning how to reach the £350,000 fundraising target for next year. She hopes to put on a charity premiere of *Primary Colors*, in which she stars, in London this autumn. "I am going to persuade John Travolta to come. It's just his sort of thing."

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Oxford students sit down for sacked principal

A picnic in the quad is not the stuff of 1960s radicalism but at least it broke the rules, says Dominic Kennedy

IF HE had peeped from his lodgings down on to the quadrangle of St Edmund Hall, Oxford, yesterday lunchtime, Sir Stephen Tumin would have seen the weary dean wrestling with an issue of crime and punishment that no former judge could envy.

On the perfectly mown lawn of the quad, where the rules of the 12th-century college ban human feet from treading, 120 undergraduates were having a picnic, popping champagne corks, eating fruit and deliberately defying authority.

They were spurred to this act of radicalism, unknown at "Teddy Hall" even in the 1960s, when the conservative undergraduates preferred drinking to demonstrations, by the resignation of Sir Stephen as their principal after a vote of no confidence by the dons.

Christopher Phelps, Dean of St Edmund Hall and responsible for discipline and welfare, surveyed the blatant disobedience of the students with a woe-filled expression, balancing the floating of tradition with their affection for the principal and their annoyance that they learnt he was leaving only through rumour and the

press. "We got our public relations wrong," Dr Phelps said. "There is a college rule which says no one goes on the grass. Some people break it from time to time. Curiously enough, it's my responsibility to see it's adhered to. I have set it aside for a few hours. I will reinforce it in due course."

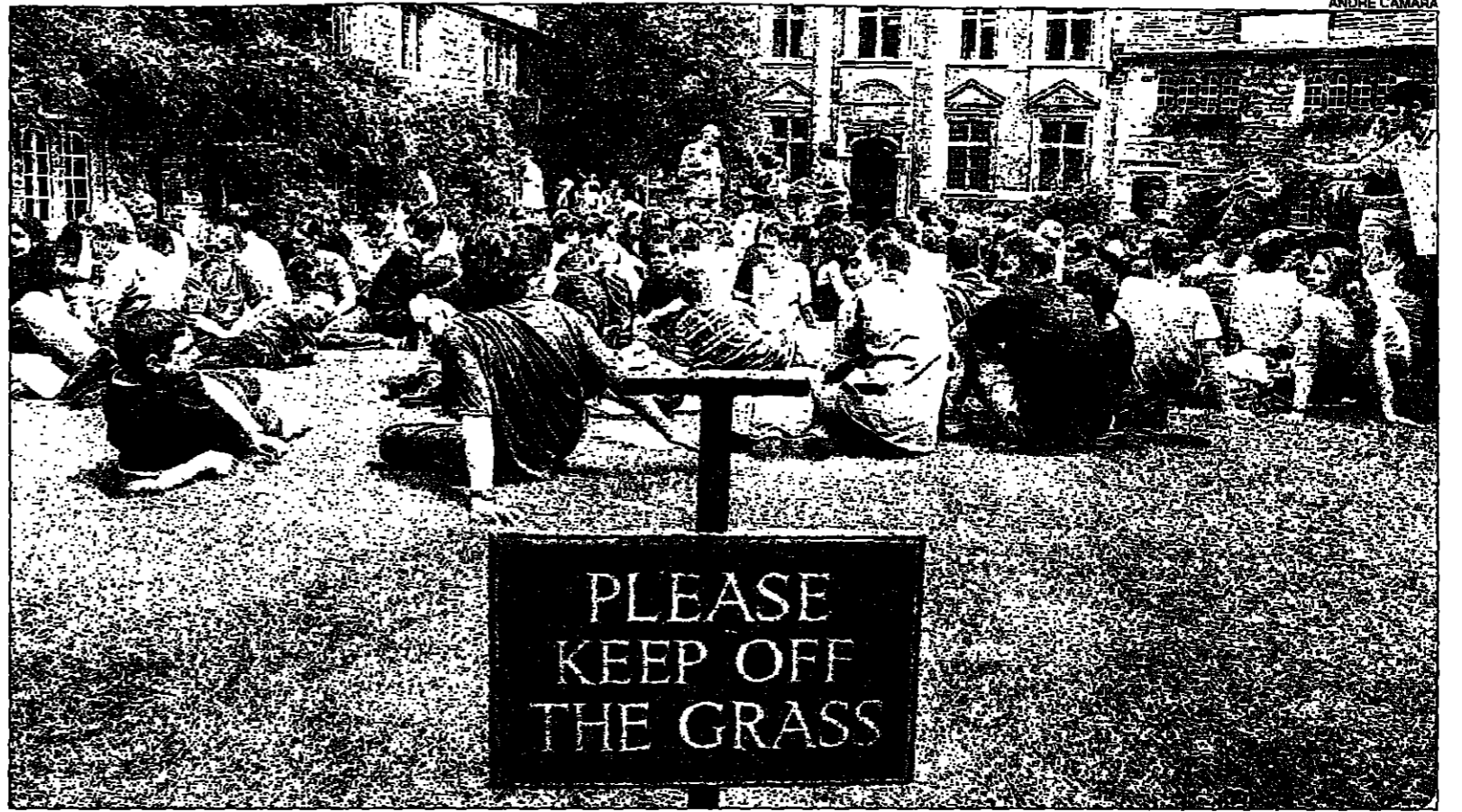
The rule is usually so strictly enforced, he explained, that when students have a ball they must erect a platform over the grass so they are technically not standing on the forbidden turf. Shortly before the demonstration, a tourist using a

mobile phone accidentally stepped onto the lawn, provoking a posse of porters to appear from the lodge and remove him promptly.

The dean can fine students or "persistent disobedients" if they step on the grass. But, like a liberal judge, he does not believe in fines, preferring to order miscreants to perform appropriate acts of "public service". He said: "There are people here who are rich. I find fines a very unsatisfactory way of penalising people. If they are drunk and spew up over the front quad, I get them cleaning out the loos. The trouble is they don't know how to do it, so they have to talk to the scout [a college cleaner]. Then they find out what it's like. That's no bad thing, particularly for the rich ones."

Behind the dean loomed the military figure of the chief porter, Guy Croft, wearing a badge of the Canadian Mounted Police and a dark blazer, furled umbrella in hand like a bayonet ready to run through anyone threatening the "hall spirit", from within or without.

In the 1960s, Mr Croft explained, because Teddy Hall was so small, all the students were so busy playing several team games a day for their college that they were too tired to join in the political agitations of the era.



St Edmund's Hall students protesting yesterday at the removal of Sir Stephen Tumin, while below, the way things were in 1969 at the LSE

Natt Fletcher, 21, reading chemistry, had brought a bottle of sparkling wine to make the hour-long demonstration pass faster, and took snapshots of his friends together for the last time.

Hugh Miller, 21, reading PPE, said suspiciously: "I suppose you are going to do a comparison with 1968, rioting in the streets, burning cars and us sitting on the grass."

A group of "young fogey" students expressed their dis-

gust at the grass invasion by skulking in the junior common room. St Edmund Hall has not seen an active rebellion like yesterday's since 1765, when six students were expelled for being Methodists.

Sir Stephen, who offended the dons by mocking them while dining at High Table elsewhere, is believed to be the first Teddy Hall principal to be forcibly removed from office since William Taylor, a Lollard, was burnt at the stake in 1423.

As the protesters dispersed, a student was scolded by a porter for riding his bicycle in the quad, causing the dean to

remark: "He nearly got himself fined." Riding bicycles is banned in the hall although the dean still frets over whether he can forbid skateboarding under the same rules. "It is quite clear," he said, "that a frisbee is a ball and there are no ball games in college — that's one of the rules — but is a skateboard a bicycle?"

Sighing, he disappeared to ponder the dilemma over a coffee while one of the country's best known judges sat a few feet away inside his lodgings, hearing "collections", the students' end-of-term oral report from the tutors who arranged his downfall.



Sex film makes waves at resort

BY DALYA ALBERGE

AN ART film about wife-swapping that has been acquired by Channel 4's film division has upset a seaside resort after the director claimed it was inspired by the town's activities. *The Big Swap*, released this month, has outraged Clevedon, near Bristol, with scenes of bondage and lesbian sex.

Niall Johnson, the director, said yesterday that the quiet resort with a high proportion of senior citizens in its population of 21,670 was a hotbed of "swinging" sex. Several scenes were shot there.

Mr Johnson, 32, said: "There was a wife-swapping scene in the town 15 or 20 years ago and I'm sure there still is one. It's a very quiet community, but you never know what goes on beneath the surface. People think Clevedon is just old folk, but there are a lot of young couples without children who

are quite cosmopolitan — and looking for some excitement."

Channel 4's *Film on Four* distributed the film at multi-screen complexes throughout Britain. It was made with £30,000 of Mr Johnson's money and £70,000 from friends and family. He wants to show it at the Curzon in Clevedon, but Maureen Hayter, 64, chairwoman of the town council, said: "It could have an extremely detrimental effect on the town. It could seriously affect the image we are trying to project."

David Shopland, an independent councillor, said: "I personally have no knowledge of wife-swapping in Clevedon. It's a highly impertinent allegation to make."

It may console the town that one newspaper critic said: "Seeing the different friends couple with one another is about as erotic as trying to figure out a bicycle lock."

Divorcee wins extra £700,000

BY DEBORAH COLLETT

THE former wife of a farmer has been awarded an extra £700,000 in a divorce settlement in recognition of her contribution to the success of their business.

Pamela White, 62, had challenged the £1 million pound lump sum she received following the end of the couple's 33-year marriage, claiming she had helped to build up the farming business in Somerset with her husband, Martin.

In judgment at the Court of Appeal yesterday, Lord Justice Thorpe said he found it "difficult to understand" why Mrs White's legal advisers had not told the divorce judge that she was entitled, as an equal partner, to share the assets.

Paul Coleridge, QC, Mrs White's counsel, said the judgment was "very important". "Never before has such weight been given to a wife in a partnership in recognition of her efforts."

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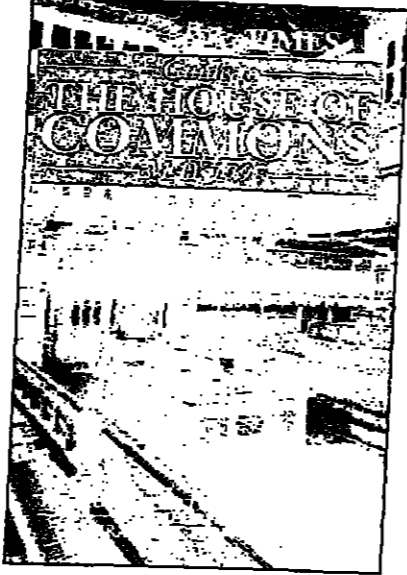
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WORLD CUP: ON AND OFF THE TERRACES

Troublemakers to be expelled on arrival in France

By DANIEL MCGRORY AND STEWART TENDLER

BRITISH and French security chiefs plan to intercept fans as they arrive at every French port and airport and immediately expel likely troublemakers.

The operation will involve British undercover officers tipping off armed French police. However, British officials want the French to agree to an increase in the number of "spotters". There are fewer than 20 in France mingling with English fans.

This latest initiative is an attempt to restore credibility to a £50 million operation to stop hooligans disgracing France '98.

The security operation was even being questioned by Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, last night. He wondered out loud if police allowed fans to lay waste to

Marseilles so they could spot and then arrest the ringleader.

What British security chiefs will have to do is explain how six years of planning failed to prevent the riots in Marseilles. Police have long said that Britain's innovative, hi-tech approach by the National Criminal Intelligence Squad (NCIS) was the best way of stopping trouble. Events in Marseilles proved otherwise.

Bruised city officials were unimpressed that afterwards undercover British officers told them they had spotted the troublemakers and the ringleaders an hour before any fighting erupted.

Known troublemakers have already arrived in Toulouse for England's game against Romania on Monday. One of the more notorious, Paul Dodd, 26, of Carlisle, who has

more than 30 convictions for violence and is banned from every ground in England, openly boasted that he was going to give rivals "a good kicking" this weekend.

Though fearful that Toulouse will sweep up the blood and broken glass by the end of this weekend the rival police forces are reluctant to trade accusations of blame. However, privately the French argue that their British colleagues are so obsessed by their computer files and technical wizardry that they are not much help in advising on what to do when 400 fans fuelled on lager start attacking rival fans.

One French official said "The British sent us thousands of pages of profiles of hooligans without knowing which were in France. What we were



Fans drinking in a café in Toulouse. British officials want more undercover officers to mingle with them

supposed to do with all that paperwork when we have fans from 32 countries to deal with?"

Yesterday Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, began moves to make it tougher for convicted hooligans to travel to games despite objections by human rights organisations.

Ministers point out that French law meant it was impossible to impose mass banning orders. Britain has imposed about 65 to stop known hooligans travelling.

The NCIS has up to 6,000 names on its files but one officer admitted it was difficult to stop most of them travel-

ling. "If everyone with a criminal record was screened out then up to a third of the male population would not be able to leave the country and Tony Adams would not be playing for England," he said.

British officers are critical of the French decision to adopt a "softly softly" approach in

Marseilles. They were appalled that CRS riot police left rival fans to fight it out on the beach out before they moved in with tear gas. Advice such as not installing giant video screens was ignored.

Letters, page 23 World Cup, pages 33-39

Stadium fencing plan is dropped

By STEWART TENDLER

THE French football authorities yesterday abandoned plans to erect a 7ft steel security fence round the pitch for England's match against Romania on Monday.

Their decision followed protests led by the heads of Fifa and the FA. Sepp Blatter, the Fifa secretary-general, had given a warning that the fences might prompt rioting rather than deter it. "If you put up fences, you will turn the fans aggressive," he said.

Steve Double, spokesman for the Football Association, said that for English fans fences would provoke memories of the Hillsborough disaster. He added: "As far as the Marseilles game was concerned, the policing was very successful in the stadium itself."

David Mellor, chairman of the Government's Football Task Force, said: "I am glad that common sense has prevailed."

Fans make most of black market while it lasts

By JOHN GOODBODY SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

LOOKING for a ticket to see England play Romania in Toulouse on Monday? There should be no problem for anyone prepared to pay £200 to £500 on the black market.

The outlook is not so rosy as the knockout stage of the World Cup finals approaches, particularly for England and Scotland games. Tickets will be harder to come by and cost more: those for the final on July 12 are being sold in Paris for £2,000.

The black market has been flourishing in France as the French, who originally bought 754,000 of the 2,650,000 seats available for the month-long tournament, have been busy reselling them.

The first 10 days of France 98 has demonstrated the futility of the British Government's £1 million advertising campaign designed to persuade supporters not to travel to France without a ticket. Thousands ignored warnings that they would be refused entry to stadiums if they bought seats on the black market: their scepticism was justified.

Kevin Miles, of the Football Supporters' Association, said: "At best checks have been most selective but frequently



An England supporter appeals for tickets

they have simply not existed. We always said that the position of the Government was unrealistic."

Mr Miles said that British tourists were in evidence for England and Scotland games. They did well in the opening Scotland-Brazil match in Paris, but less so for the England-Tunisia match in Marseilles.

Things will get tighter this week. For the last group match against Colombia in Lens on Friday, England have an allocation of only 4,500 seats, and thousands of supporters may make the short trip across the Channel.

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13520

WORLD CUP: ON AND OFF THE TERRACES

Faces that tell tale of a nation

Mark Henderson on the history that lurks beneath the warpaint

EVERY daft costume tells a story. Football teams are often said to reflect their national character — Brazilian flamboyance, German efficiency, Scottish tragedy — but the dress, props, style and celebrations of their fans are more illuminating.

Social anthropologists and other academic fanwatchers believe that supporters' exhibitionism in the stands reveals their membership of a national tribe, each with its own rituals, chants, customs and ceremonial dress. With gestures of victory, defiance and disrespect, fans seek to achieve the same effect as a Sioux brave or a Zulu impi. Observers can, with knowledge, pick out unique national traits.

Peter Marsh, of the Social Issues Research Centre in Oxford, has given his own commentary on our photographs of fans at the World Cup. Strong nations with a record of football success are often confident enough to steal others' national symbols: "This German is a good example. His team are playing the United States; he's stealing the opposition's icons and using them to show the superiority of his own."

There's a native American headdress and the large silly gloves that are so popular with baseball and American football crowds. But it's quite clear he's a German; the colours of his warpaint show that. It's a nice irony that he's picked the Indian headdress, because what he's doing is very similar symbolically to American Indians scalping their victims.

Dutch fans, too, can make anything work as a Dutch

symbol just by colouring it orange. "The Dutch have a great national colour to work with because it stands out so much. This fan is having fun at the expense of his hosts, the French. There's another fan there with an orange Eiffel Tower on his head — he's doing the same thing."

The confidence of the Dutch and Germans stands in contrast to the cagier pride of some of the World Cup newcomers, with their unfamiliar national symbols. "It's interesting that the Croatia fan has to write his country's name on his head — usually the flag or the national colours is enough. There's an intense national pride here, mixed with a little insecurity and lack of confidence."

African nations play the same game, but have a tendency to use animal imagery: Tunisians waved snakes during their match with England and team nicknames include the Nigerian Super-Eagles, the Indomitable Lions of Cameroon and Morocco's Atlas Lions. "The Cameroon fan's body painting is in the national colours in the same way as European countries, but the style and the way it's applied is completely different. He's put on some sort of leopard-skin effect, which is very typical of the Africans, and the grass he's holding illustrates the nature element of African culture."

Different groups of African fans, however, can send out very different signals about their homes. "It's very interesting to compare the way the Cameroon fans dress with the Nigerians. The Cameroon



Germany: so confident of success against the USA that fans are happy to steal the opposition's icons



Cameroon: leopard-skin body painting and grass show the elemental and rural nature of the country



The Netherlands: national colour is so striking that they can mock opponents' symbols with ease



Croatia: having to write the nation's name shows insecurity



Nigeria: the fans' use of Western clothes and musical instruments shows how confident, developed and urbanised the country is, compared with a rural neighbour such as Cameroon



Morocco: headdresses denote status and clan allegiance

supporters use rural imagery pretty widely, with feather headdresses, body painting and the like. If you look at the Nigerians though, they could almost be Europeans. They're in the national colours, but not the national costume. Nigeria

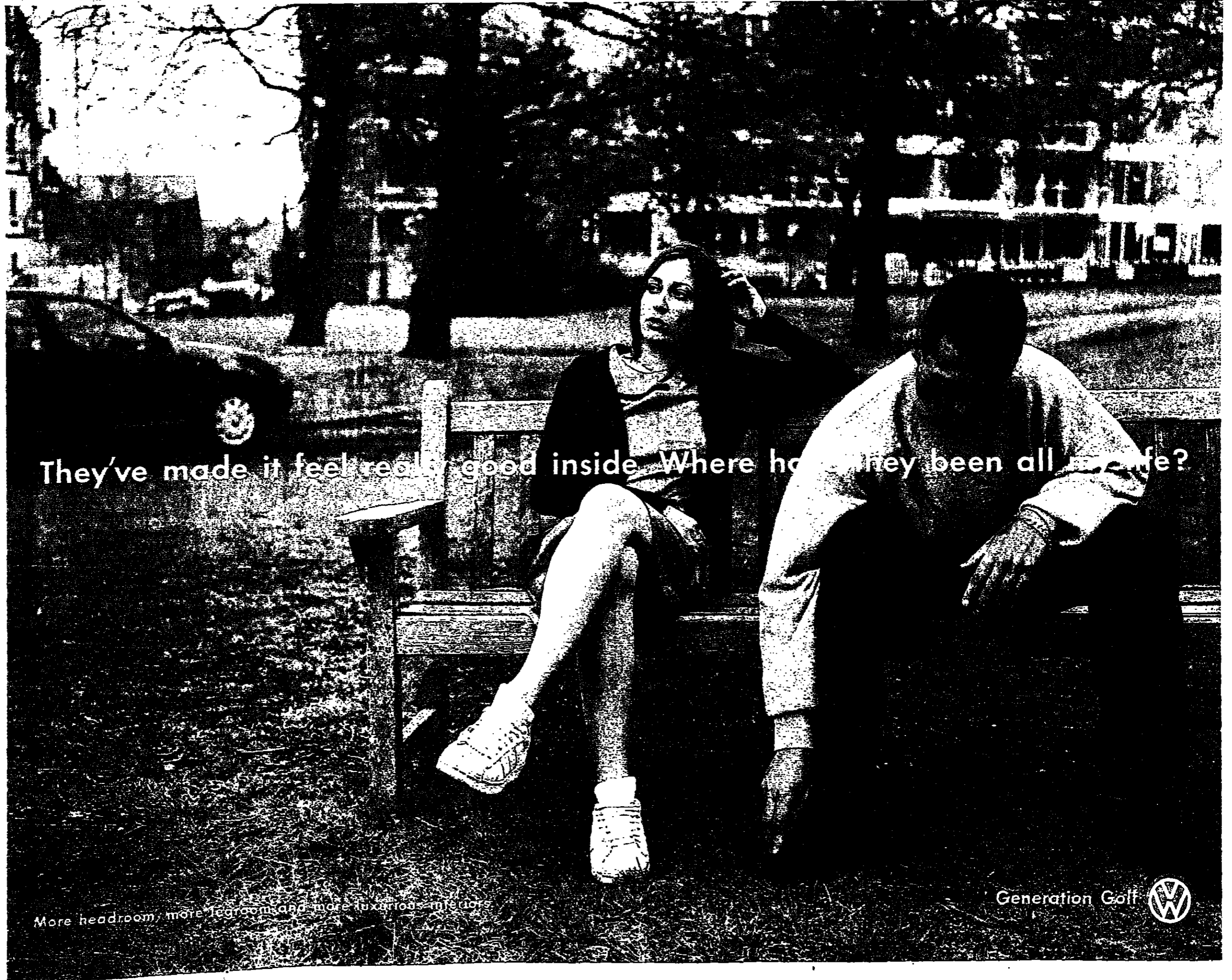
is a much more urbanised and developed country than Cameroon, and you can see that by comparing the fans. "North African fans wearing Sahara-style headdresses are using an important cultural emblem that is among the

most distinctive tribal markers of the region. Among tribes such as the Tuareg, the colour and style of a headscarf denotes class, status and clan allegiance. An alternative strategy among emerging football na-

tions is to use clear national symbols that might be understood from another context. Japanese use the rising sun in facepaint to good effect, and the Jamaicans, with their whistles and conch-style horns imported from the cricket

stands, have offered a lesson in how to let the world know that you have arrived. The one country that tends to avoid traditional national symbols is England. "Every-one else has a national costume or emblem that has

something ironic or historical about it: kilts, Viking helmets and so on. The best we can do is a beer belly, a plastic bowler hat and T-shirts listing our latest victories. Ours is a divided culture, and that comes through in our fans."



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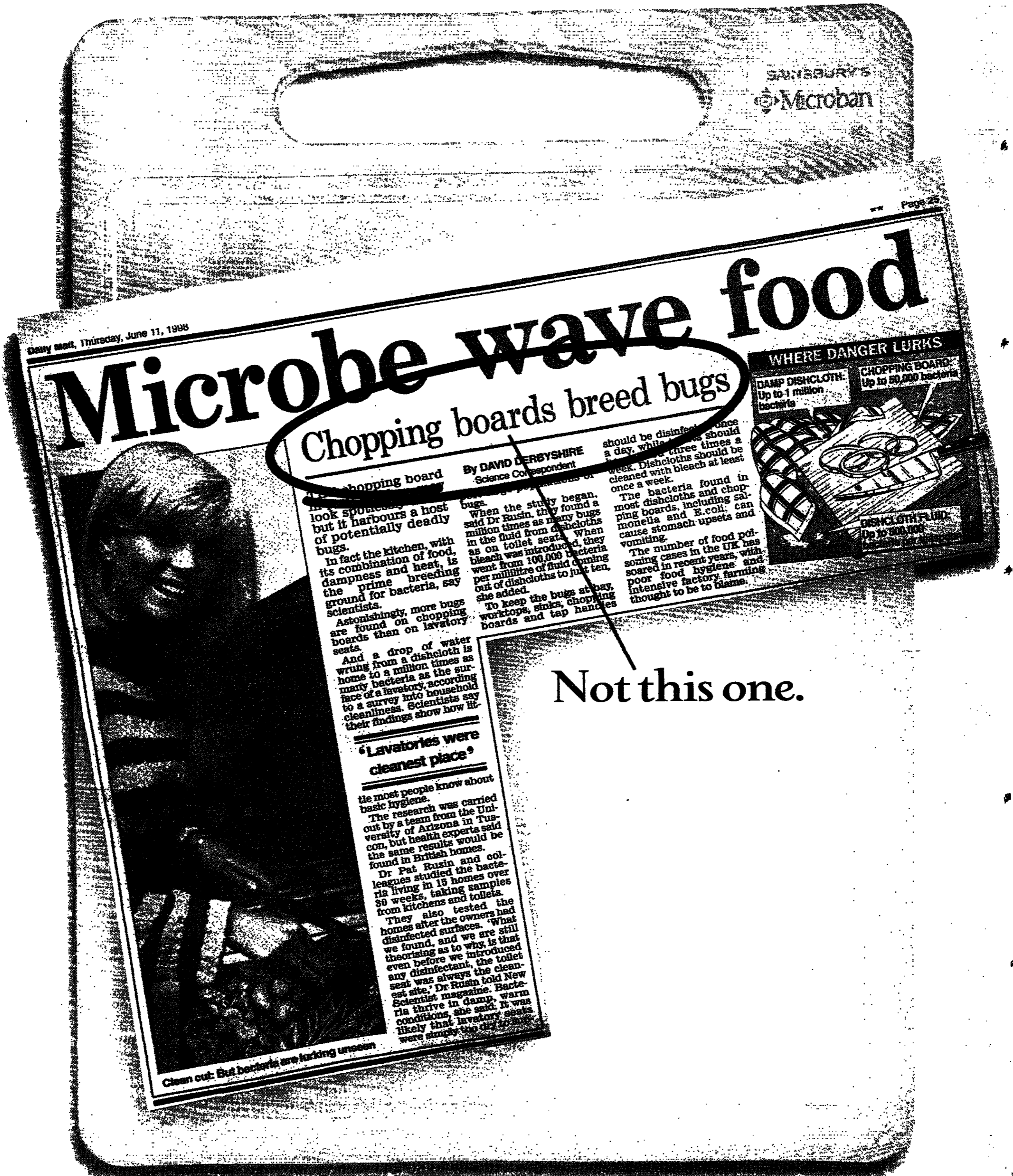
Generation Golf

Stadium fencing plan is dropped

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hotel breaks heart of London

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Microbe wave food

Chopping boards breed bugs

Sunday Mail, Thursday, June 11, 1998

Page 25



Chopping board look sparkling but it harbours a host of potentially deadly bugs.

In fact the kitchen, with its dampness and heat, is the prime breeding ground for bacteria, say scientists.

Astonishingly, more bugs are found on chopping boards than on lavatory seats.

And a drop of water wrung from a dishcloth is home to a million times as many bacteria as the surface of a lavatory, according to a survey into household cleanliness. Scientists say their findings show how fit-

'Lavatories were cleanest place'

tle most people know about basic hygiene.

The research was carried out by a team from the University of Arizona in Tucson, but health experts said the same results would be found in British homes.

Dr Pat Rusin and colleagues studied the bacteria living in 15 homes over 30 weeks, taking samples from kitchens and toilets.

They also tested the homes after the owners had disinfected surfaces. "What we found, and we are still theorising as to why, is that even before we introduced any disinfectant, the toilet seat was always the cleanest site," Dr Rusin told *New Scientist* magazine. Bacteria thrive in damp, warm conditions, she said. It was likely that lavatory seats were simply the most

By DAVID DERBYSHIRE
Science Correspondent

should be disinfected once a day, while seats should be disinfected three times a week. Dishcloths should be cleaned with bleach at least once a week.

The bacteria found in most dishcloths and chopping boards, including salmonella and E.coli, can cause stomach upsets and vomiting.

The number of food poisoning cases in the UK has soared in recent years, with poor food hygiene and intensive factory farming thought to be to blame.

WHERE DANGER LURKS

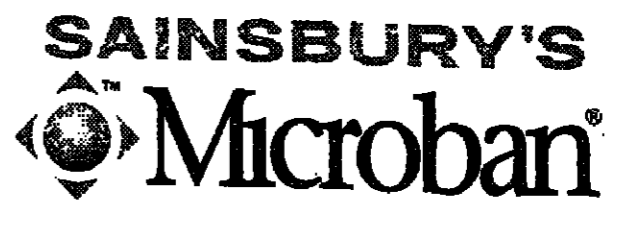
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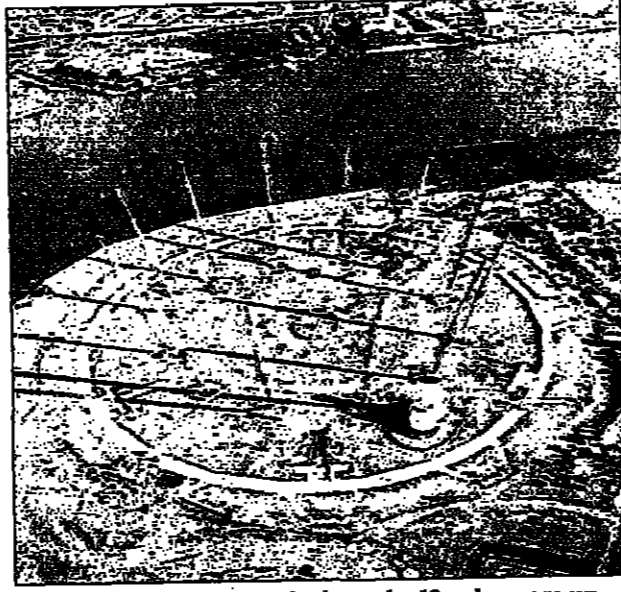
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Monumental growth of the Dome



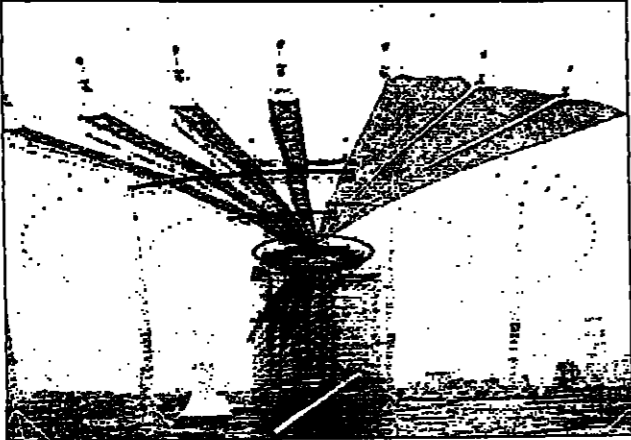
June 97: the Greenwich site on the day the Cabinet decided to build the Dome



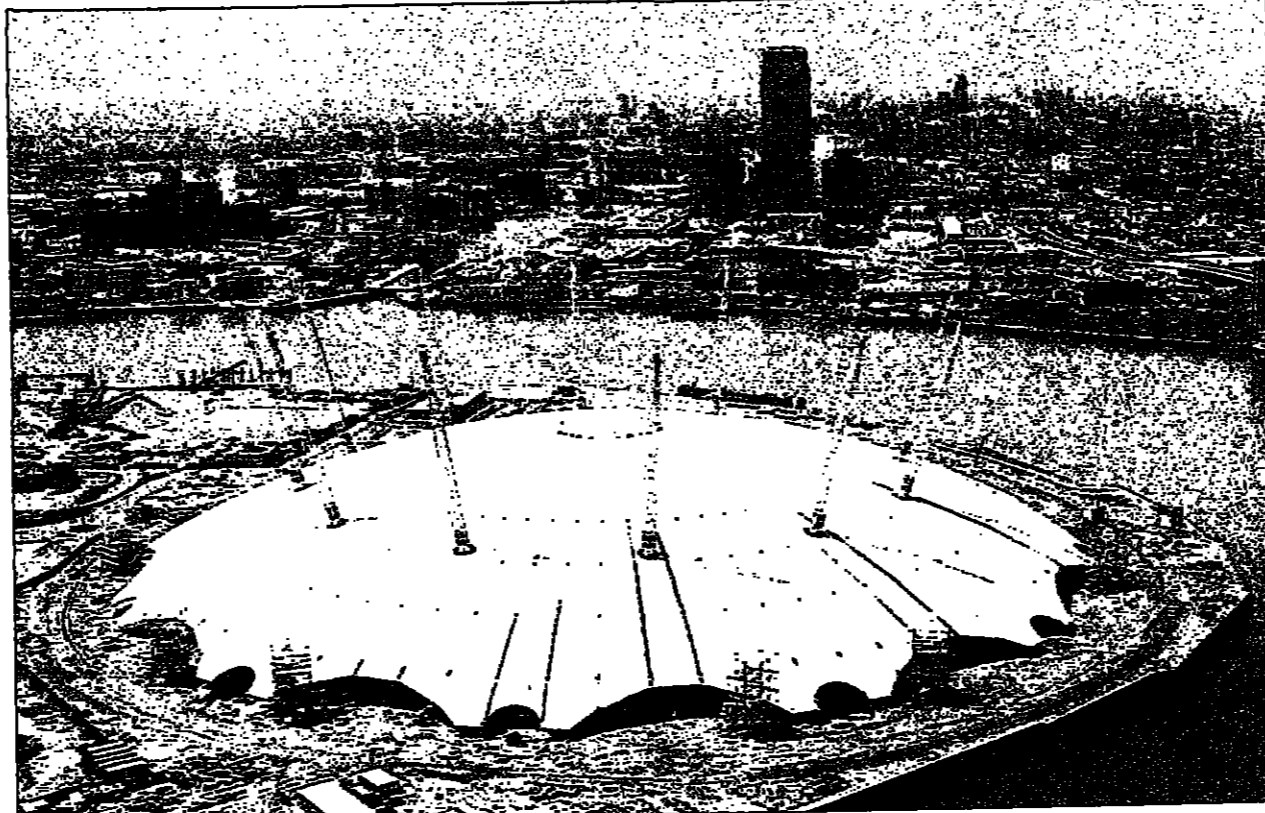
October 97: four months later the 12 pylons are up



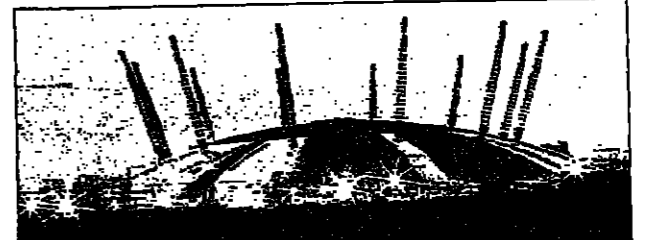
March 98: a network of high-tension cables is ready to support the huge canopy



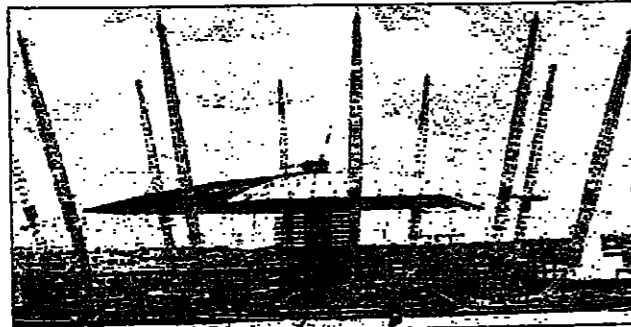
March 98: the first of the Teflon panels are in place



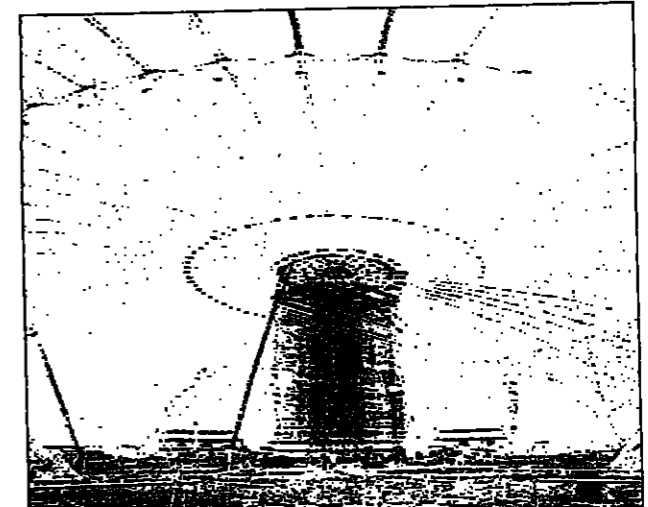
Exhibition standard: the completed exterior of the Millennium Dome yesterday. Photograph by Ray Little



June 98: skyline at night offers a spectacular view



April 98: the huge canopy is rapidly taking shape



June 98: days later the canopy is almost complete

WHEN Tony Blair visits the Millennium Dome at Greenwich next week, he will find it hard to believe that he is standing on the same poisonous patch of wasteland that he saw last June after the Government decided to go ahead with the scheme. It was a year ago yesterday that the Cabinet made the final decision

to build the Dome; today the construction work is complete and the building dominates the Docklands skyline. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, steered the Cabinet towards approving

the Millennium Exhibition after Mr Blair had to leave the meeting because of a commitment to attend a service at St Margaret's, Westminster. When the meeting finished and the Prime Minister returned, Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio now responsible for the Dome, suggested a spur-of-the-moment visit to the site. Mr Blair, Mr Prescott, Mr Mandelson and Chris

Smith, the Culture Secretary, travelled to Greenwich to inspect the progress. "It was a vast, empty, windswept wasteland," Mr Mandelson said. "At that moment the real enormity of the task

ahead struck us all." In the 12 months that followed, the poisonous mud on the site has been cleaned, 12 giant masts representing the clock have been erected and the canopy has been put in place. An amazing transformation is almost complete, with 18 months to go before the celebrations begin.

Mark Henderson and Dominic Kennedy on the transformation of the Greenwich skyline

It moves faster and drinks a lot less. I wonder if they can do anything with husbands?

More powerful, more efficient, 100hp, diesel engines.

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Round Table's new turn

JAMES BONE'S NEW YORK



WHEN James Thurber was asked why so many great writers congregated at the Algonquin Hotel, the acerbic American humourist observed that they had not been great when they arrived, but merely became so while waiting for the lift.

A writer can still become great today while waiting for the Algonquin's famously tardy lift, but he will be immeasurably aided in his endeavour by the British hotelier and British designer who have just revamped the celebrated New York watering hole to recapture the glory days of the "Algonquin Round Table" of the Twenties, when wits and wags such as Dorothy Parker and Harpo Marx traded "bons mots" in the salon.

The Round Table — New York's equivalent of the "Bloomers Club" of American writers in Paris — began by happy accident in 1919 with a "welcome home" party for the powerful New York Times drama critic, Alexander Woolcott, who had just returned for a wartime assignment in Paris. The host of the event judged it such a success that he asked "Why don't we do this every day?" And so began the famous "ten-year lunch".

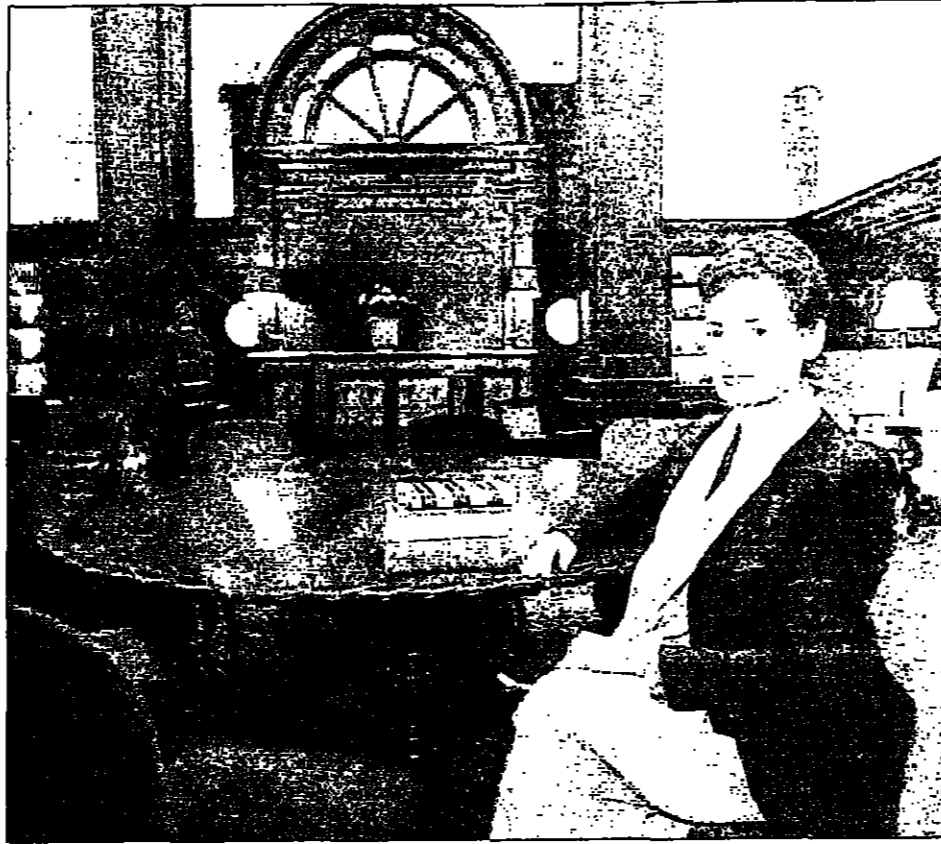
The hotel laid on free snacks for the impecunious scribblers who gathered in the lounge, and when their numbers became sufficiently large and their reputations a little more established, set aside a large round table for their conversations. Soon, literary legend was born.

It was at the Algonquin, for instance, that Harold Ross is said to have conceived the *New Yorker* magazine. Even decades later, William Faulkner chose the hotel's brooding calm to pen his acceptance speech for the 1950 Nobel Literature Prize.

Ian Lloyd-Jones, the British hotelier whose Atlanta-based company bought the 165-room hotel last year, is seeking to retrieve the literary landmark's original lustre. As well as holding weekly evenings devoted to the spoken word, he is offering a free night to authors on book tours in return for a signed copy of their work. To reproduce the clubby feel of the hotel's heyday, he has spent \$5 million on a bookworm-friendly refit by a British designer.

Alexandra Champalimaud's redesign makes generous reference to the Round Table writers: first editions of their books are strewn on the bookshelves and coffee tables; the corridors to the rooms are wallpapered with classic New Yorker cartoons; and a large oil painting has been commissioned of the original members of the group. And, of course, there is a symbolic Round Table — a 7ft oak antique with a scalloped edge that Ms Champalimaud bought in Maine.

The smart young set seldom has time for old-fashioned conversation in Manhattan these days, but many writers, particularly those working for *The New Yorker* and *Vogue*, do come out for "power lunch"



British designer Alexandra Champalimaud in the lobby of the Algonquin Hotel

at Ian Schrager's severely minimalist Royalton Hotel, just across the street from the Algonquin. Ms Champalimaud believes that true literary will return to the Algonquin. "I didn't want it to become an 'in' place fashion-wise," she says. "I just want anyone who is interested in history and stories, to be part of the throbb of this area of New York City. We all need a place where we can come and put our feet up, have a drink and feel at home. This is not Hollywood."



Harpo Marx: wit from Algonquin's glory days

A sour slice of ham

THE Royal Shakespeare Company's first foreign residency has excited lively reaction here from Anglophile and Anglophobe critics alike. The troupe relocated to the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York for a three-week summer sojourn, followed by two weeks in Washington, during which it offered *Hamlet*, *Cymbeline* and *Henry VIII* as well as the medieval morality play *Everyman* and Beckett's *Krapp's Last Tape*.

I managed to catch the modern-dress *Hamlet*, directed (and rewritten) by Matthew Warchus, which turned the Dane into a Champagne Charlie who had wandered out of *Brideshead Revisited*. The judgment of the Anglophobe camp on the RSC's experiment was predictably vehement. "Having now seen five productions by the RSC, I can only suggest that this crumbling institution... be shut down before it disgraces British culture any further," wrote Michael Feingold, theatre critic of the *Village Voice*. The Anglophiles, delighted at the feast of Shakespeare with a British accent, were more willing to overlook the weaknesses. "Seeing the company, warts and all, is part of the total experience," wrote Clive Barnes of the *New York Post*.

Eric Idle has signed up to write the book for a new musical based on the works of Dr Seuss, but what will the former Monty Python funnyman make of the eccentric children's writer who wrote about green eggs and ham? The public will have to wait for a first reading of *Seussical* until next summer. In the interim, if Mr Idle starts babbling in silly rhymes, we should all understand that there is method in his madness.

A new peril is lying in wait for unsuspecting women on the streets of New York. High-tech Peeping Toms are reported to be prowling the city with miniature video cameras concealed in their bags, trying to film up women's skirts. One man was found with his handycam underneath an escalator in the Javitz Convention Centre. Police took him into custody, but did not know what crime to charge him with. Just as charges were to be withdrawn, the contrite fetishist admitted harassment.



Rachel Whiteread: a prize-winner on the rooftops

In over my head

The opening for Rachel Whiteread's first piece of public art in New York turned into something of a street party, with many present unaware that the artwork they were celebrating loomed way above their heads. Whiteread, the Turner Prize-winner, constructed her cylindrical *Water Tower* out of a translucent resin and planted it on a rooftop around the corner from my loft in trendy SoHo, where it looked like a lunar module that had inadvertently landed on the city. I would be tempted to wonder what the point was, except that every time I step out of my front door I am upbraided by this slogan on a nearby gallery: "Without art, we are but monkeys with car keys."



Mayor Giuliani: plan for crisis bunker in the sky

Rudolph Giuliani, the New York Mayor, has been a laughing stock this week for his proposal to build a multimillion-dollar crisis centre on the 23rd floor of the World Trade Centre — scene of one of the worst terrorist bombings on American soil.

Mr Giuliani insists the city needs such emergency planning for the tidal waves and poison-gas attacks of the next century. But everyone else thinks he's been watching too many of those Hollywood disaster movies.

The folly has already been dubbed "Rudy's Nuclear Winter Palace" and "The Nut Shell" and earned the mayor comparison to President Saddam Hussein. As the Speaker of the City Council put it: "If he wants to build a bunker for the only people he trusts, all he needs is a phone booth."

A street vendor selling fake designer sunglasses for \$6 (£3.75) a pair was asked why they were going so cheap. "If you need self-esteem, they're yours for \$12," he immediately counter-offered.

Iran's World Cup team, already irate about the French television broadcast of a film about an American woman who escapes her Iranian husband, would be shocked to learn who is sponsoring US coverage of their match against the US tomorrow. Advertisers include the US Army and Budweiser. The *Great Satan* seems destined to level the score for the Iranian revolution.

The Prince of Wales raised eyebrows when he agreed to donate one of his own pictures to the New York Academy of Art's "Take Home a Nude" fundraising auction. Connoisseurs were waiting to see with bated breath which of his female friends had posed in the buff. When it finally arrived, the Prince's contribution turned out to be a very unsexy lithograph of a landscape.

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In 1938 the RAF took delivery of its first Spitfire at Duxford in Cambridgeshire. On May 2nd-3rd the Imperial War Museum staged a spectacular air show to mark the aircraft's Diamond Jubilee. No fewer than 22 Spitfires were present with up to 16 flying in formation over the famous Battle of Britain airfield. Not since World War II has there been such a gathering of these historic fighters. In this exclusive video top ITV cameramen have captured the aviation event of the year.

There's stunning air to air footage, plus action from right inside the cockpit as pilots describe their display routines. Nine different marks of Spitfire are joined by contemporaries like the Hurricane, Blenheim, Lysander and Mustang with jet age tributes from the Hunter and Tornado.

There's also rare archive material from Duxford's early days.

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Farewell to the note that made its mark

IT IS NOT normal to rush to the undertakers and get measured up for a coffin on your 50th birthday.

Yet this is the fate of the German mark, which this weekend clocks up its half century in the knowledge that it will soon die and give way to what was once dubbed the Camembert currency: the untested and unloved euro.

The Germans love the mark. Indeed, one could argue that they love only the mark. It liberated them by restoring their self-respect. It showed them the route out of the swamp of defeat. It made work a worthwhile activity again and thus some of the old Prussian virtues — so sinister when applied in Hitler's vicious police state — could come back into play: order, punctuality, craftsmanship.

Now the mark is becoming a museum piece. Indeed, Hans Tietmeyer, the president of the Bundesbank, has just opened a mark museum in Rothwesten, the barracks where the Allies worked on the future currency.

The deep psychological impact on the Germans has not been fully weighed: scrapping the mark is seen as trouble for Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, as he heads for a difficult general election. But there has been no attempt to understand the sense of bereavement of two generations of Germans and the angry scepticism of the east, which, like the post-war West Germans, identified the mark with freedom.

Heidrun Knopp, 67, is old enough to recall the Weimar years when Germany experienced hyperinflation. "No, I don't remember seeing people with wheelbarrows full of notes," says the retired school-teacher. "But people did the craziest things. They filled up holes in the roof with tightly wrapped wads of banknotes worth hundreds of millions of marks, or they wallpapered their living rooms — if you could buy the paste. Or you used money to light a fire."

I tell her that an entrepre-



Germans see the euro as no match for the currency which liberated them, writes Roger Boyes

When the Deutschemark came into being, replacing the Reichsmark, debts were wiped out. The initial exchange was at 1:1, with each West German entitled to trade in 60 Reichsmarks. At the same time Ludwig Erhard — then director of economic affairs in the United States and British zones, later Economics Minister and Chancellor — relaxed price controls and cut taxes. He became the father of the economic miracle.

But new currencies both divide and unite. The 1948 Deutschemark sealed the division of Germany. The Soviet authorities introduced an eastern mark, and the split put an end to hopes of unification.

In those days the Reichsbank believed it could overcome inflation by printing more money. Little wonder that the Allies concentrated hard, after the Second World War, on how to create a stable currency as a prerequisite for a stable political system. The economy had broken down. By the end of 1945 the American cigarette was the basic unit of currency. Within weeks of the war's end the value of a cigarette rose from six Reichsmarks to 18: it was the only sure way to buy eggs or butter.

The Americans presented their plans for currency reform to the Allied Control Council in August 1946. Deutschemarks were printed in huge quantities in Washington and New York, shipped to Germany (with the fake destination Barcelona stencilled on the cases to fool thieves), taken by sealed trains to Frankfurt and then distributed under guard.

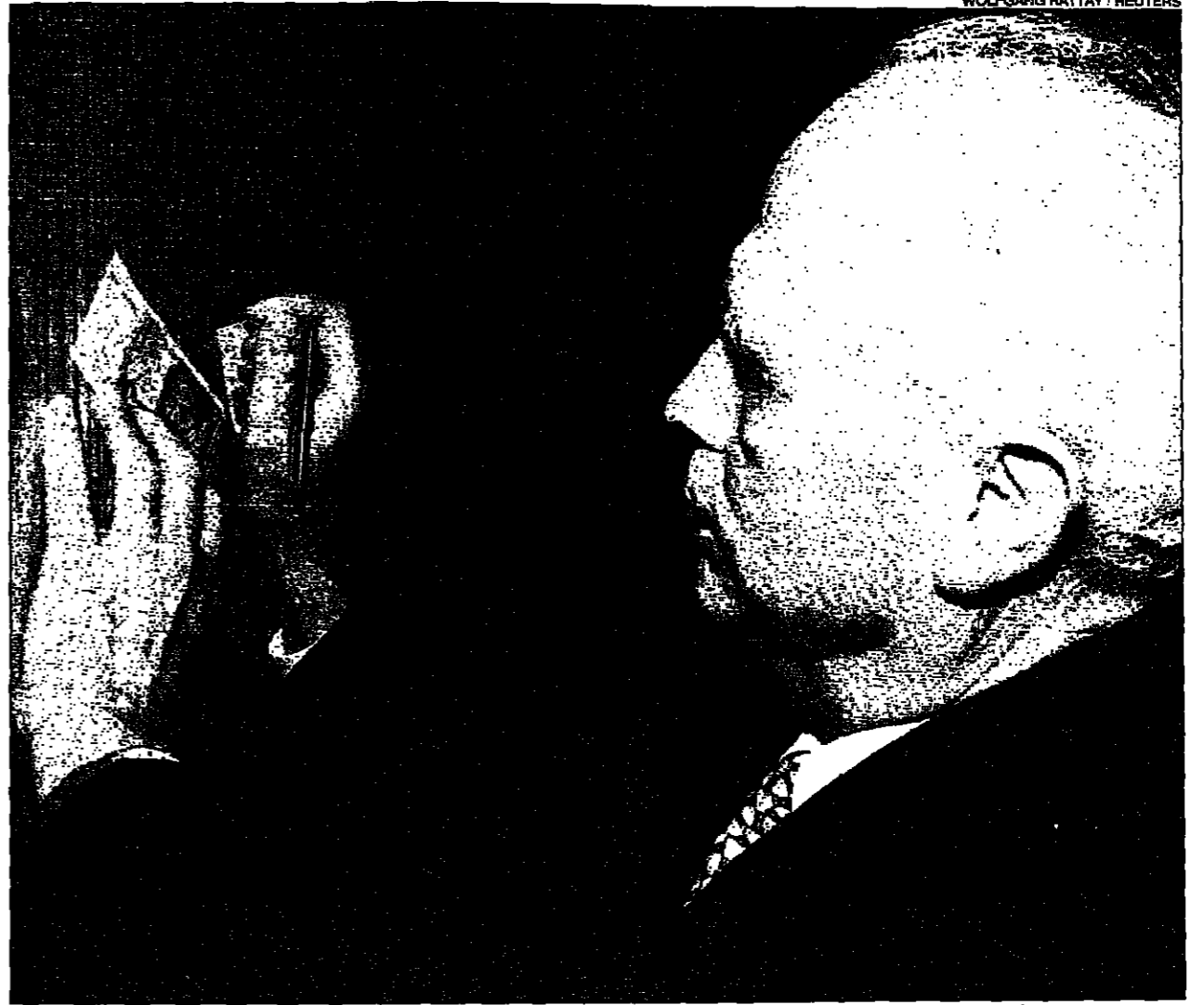
How to achieve this in Eurland? No one is quite sure.

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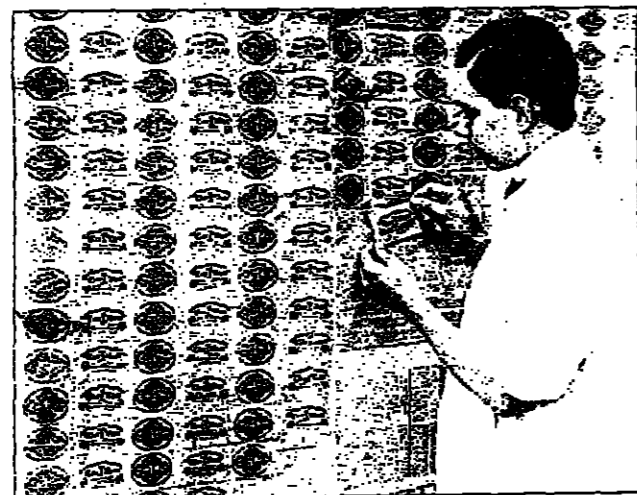
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In 1990, Herr Kohl persuaded the Bundesbank to change eastern marks at a rate of 1:1 with western marks. It was a bold political move. But the D-mark also became the symbol of division, highlighting the lower wages in the east.



Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank president, autographs a banknote yesterday at the celebrations in Bonn



In the 1920s the mark made the cheapest wallpaper

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Rift mars reburial of Tsar

Church feud forces Yeltsin to miss ceremony, Michael Binyon writes

FEUDING and rampant anti-Semitism within the Russian Orthodox Church have forced the Kremlin to abandon plans for a glittering ceremony to reinter the bones of the murdered Tsar and his family.

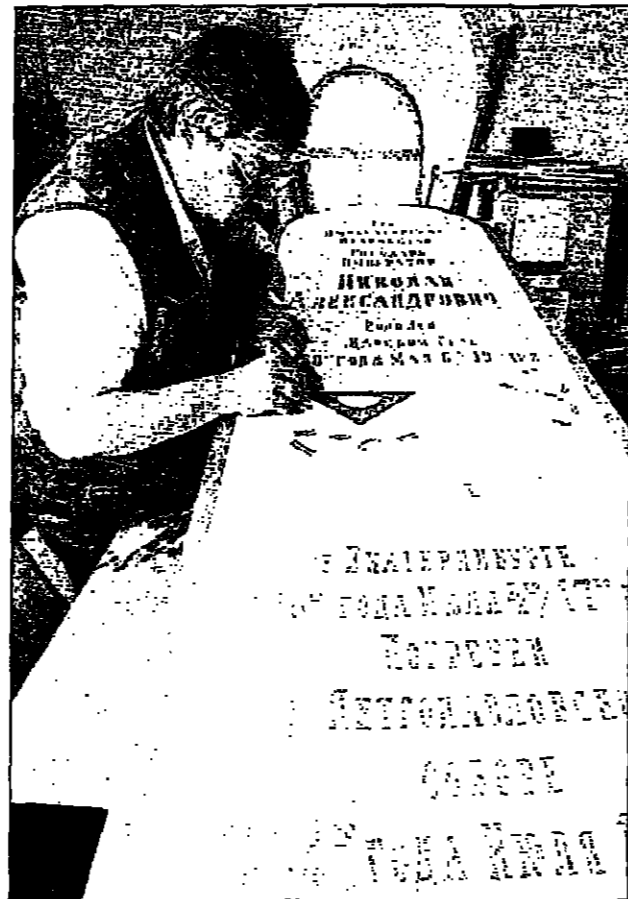
The patriarch, under pressure from nationalist clergy who refuse to accept the authenticity of the DNA tests identifying the bones, has announced that he will boycott the burial in St Petersburg on July 17. As a result President Yeltsin and a number of senior foreign dignitaries will stay away.

The burial in the Peter and Paul fortress, originally conceived as a ceremony of national reconciliation to allow Russia to come to terms with

the trauma of regicide, will be a modest affair, conducted by a local priest. The Kremlin will be represented by Boris Nemtsov, the Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr Nemtsov headed the commission charged with identifying the nine sets of bones excavated from a shallow grave in a wood outside Yekaterinburg in 1991.

Patriarch Aleksii II announced this month that neither he nor any senior members of the Orthodox hierarchy would be attending because of lingering doubts over the identification — despite a new round of tests undertaken in Britain and at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington at



A Russian craftsman glues gilded letters to the gravestone of Tsar Nicholas. The remains, right, have been authenticated by DNA examinations as those of the Russian ruler



the Church's request. Instead, he said that he would hold a service of prayers for "all those killed at the time of severe persecution".

The Church's refusal to accept the scientific analysis has embarrassed the Govern-

ment, which says it will minimise the expenses of the funeral and keep everything "modest and decent". Prince Michael of Kent, a Russian speaker who has made television documentaries on the Tsar, will attend in a private

capacity, as will members of European royal families. However, Britain will be officially represented only by Sir Andrew Wood, the British Ambassador to Moscow.

The commission's investigation has been attacked by

extreme right-wing nationalists, who have sympathisers within the Church. They maintain that the Tsar was killed by a conspiracy of Jews and Masons, and have demanded tests to see whether the assassination was a "ritual

murder". According to anti-Semites, Christians are decapitated in Jewish ritual murders, and the nationalists want to know if this was the fate of the Tsar.

The patriarch has refused to distance the Church from the anti-Semitic nationalism of some priests. Instead, extreme right-wing views are gaining ground. Last month, on the orders of Bishop Nikon of the diocese of Yekaterinburg, books of the sermons and teachings of two respected Orthodox priests were burnt in a seminary courtyard as being the works of "heretics".

The two priests, Fathers Alexander Schmemmann and Jean Meyendorff, were both exiles living in New York who kept the Church alive during Communist days with spiritual broadcasts.

The Rev Michael Bourdeaux, one of the foremost Western authorities on Russian Orthodoxy and head of the Keaton Institute for the study of religion in the former Soviet Union, has denounced

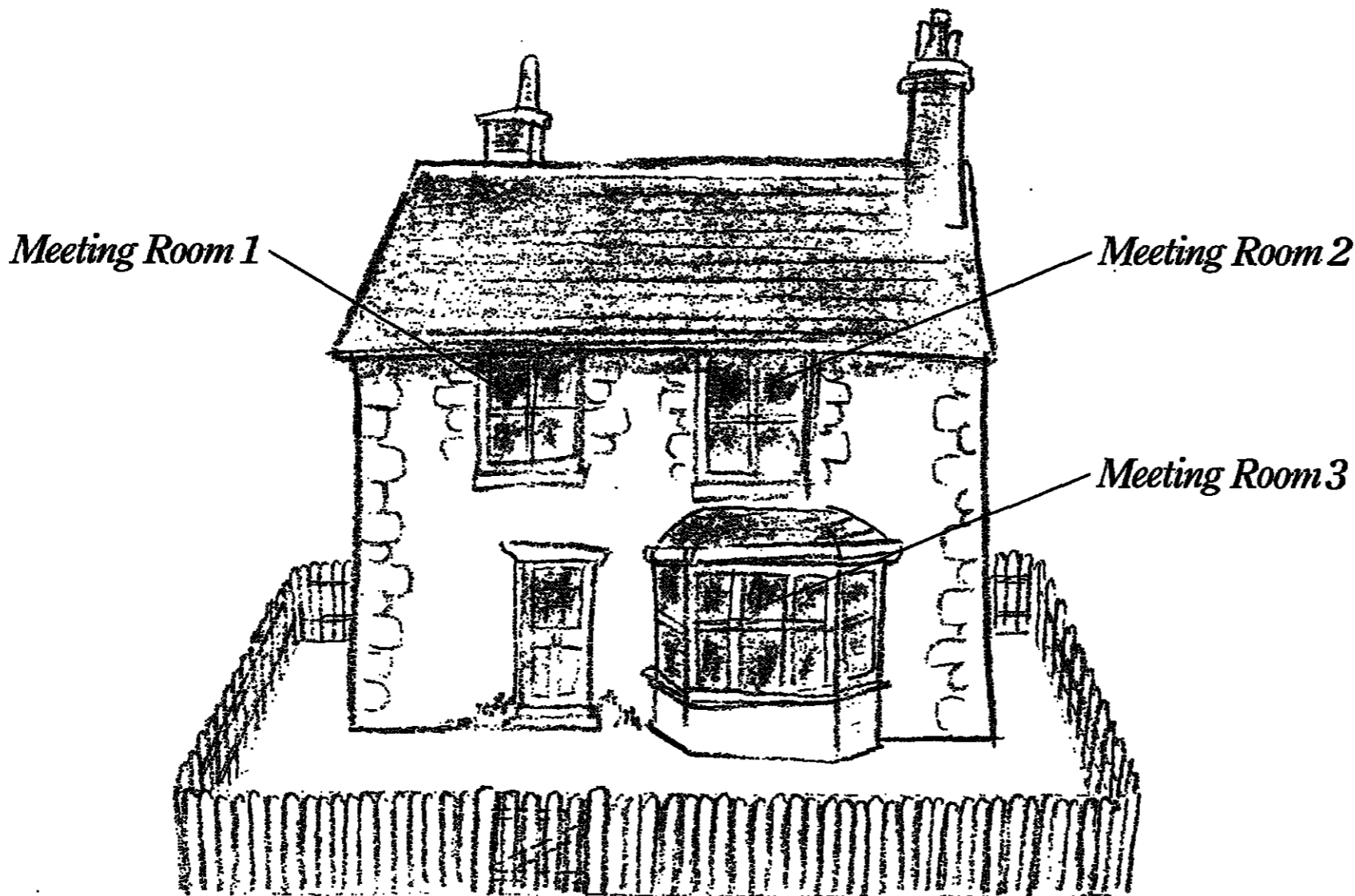
the new obscurantism gaining ground in the Church. He has also criticised the patriarch for failing to condemn the episode in Yekaterinburg and for weak leadership since his election in 1990.

He said that the Church has begun a campaign against liberalism, hounding and defrocking Gleb Yakunin, a reformist priest who suffered persecution by the communist authorities. Others, such as Georgi Kochetkov, who have

LEADING ARTICLE... 23

tried to introduce reforms such as the use of modern Russian in the liturgy, have also suffered.

The Russian Orthodox Church maintains that its caution on the authenticity of the bones is because of the movement to canonise the Tsar. The remains of any saint are venerated as relics, the patriarchate said, and the Church could therefore not afford any doubt about their authenticity.



Tsar Nicholas: "killed by a conspiracy of Jews"

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WORLD IN BRIEF

Locked-out envoys to quit Belarus

LED by the British Ambassador, Jessica Pearce, all 15 members of the European Union are to withdraw their ambassadors from Belarus after the envoys were again locked out of their homes — only two days after being told they could stay (Michael Binyon writes).

Ambassadors from 22 countries with residences in the leafy Drozdy complex in Minsk, home also of President Lukashenko, found that the gates were locked, and waited outside for an hour before returning to the city. Water and electricity were cut off and the road was blocked, despite a presidential decree on Wednesday rescinding eviction orders. The envoys met at the home of the British Ambassador, even though her residence is not in the complex, because Britain holds the EU presidency.

Kashmir ambush kills 25

Jammu: Muslim militants killed 25 Hindu wedding guests in an ambush in the Indian state of Kashmir and injured five others. Police said the shootings took place at Champnagri, a town 140 miles north of the city of Jammu. The victims, who included the bridegroom, had been travelling to the wedding by bus when the guerrillas struck. Separatist rebels in Kashmir, which has a Muslim majority, have been waging a nine-year campaign against India which has claimed more than 20,000 lives. (AFP)

Jospin 'in US to learn'

Washington: Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister and Socialist, has surprised his American hosts by admitting that France has much to learn from the success of the US economy (Tom Rhodes writes). Mr Jospin, on his first official visit to Washington, said that "contrary to what we affirmed and perhaps even believed" most new jobs in America were skilled positions in high technology and the service industry. He said he had come to "assess the sources of American dynamism."

Turkish F16s leave Cyprus

Lefkoniko, Cyprus: An F16 pilot waves Turkish and Cypriot flags yesterday before his plane and two others left Cyprus after a one-day stay that has added to heightened tension on the divided island caused by a Greek air force visit earlier this week. The three F16s took off from a small Turkish Cypriot airport in Lefkoniko and circled before heading north to Turkey. People cheered and waved at the jets as they flew past. (Reuters)

Million US pupils had guns

Washington: Nearly one million teenagers in the US carried guns to school last year, and nearly half of them were armed six or more times, a survey has found (Tom Rhodes writes). The survey of 154,350 teenagers by Pride, a drug prevention programme, also found that 51 per cent of those who carried guns said they had threatened to harm a teacher; 63 per cent said they had threatened to injure another student. In San Francisco yesterday two youths were in a critical condition after a playground shooting.

US sailors lose their flare

Washington: The US Navy is dispensing with bell-bottomed dungarees, as featured by Gene Kelly and Frank Sinatra, left, in *On the Town*, in favour of a straight-legged, dark-blue style. The old trousers were easy to roll up in the days when sailors scrubbed decks in bare feet, but have grown unpopular because they smack of a bygone era. (Reuters)

Author's demons 'led to killing'

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

FOR more than a decade, Michael Laudor successfully wrestled with the demons of schizophrenia, becoming a Yale scholar, advocate for the mentally ill and even selling his story to Hollywood.

But yesterday the disease appeared to have exacted its revenge as Mr Laudor, 35, a lawyer from Westchester County, New York, was charged with the murder of his pregnant fiancée. He is alleged to have fallen victim to the delusions of schizophrenia before stabbing Caroline Costello, 37, to death. Her body, with more than ten knife wounds to the back and neck, was discovered at their flat in suburban Hastings-on-Hudson, an idyllic riverside village untainted by murder for 20 years.

Mr Laudor had been seen as a role model for the mentally ill. He had won a contract worth \$600,000 (£375,000) from Scribner for his autobiography, to be entitled *Laws of Madness*. He had also been offered \$1.5 million in a deal for a film to have starred Brad Pitt. The actor is said to have withdrawn from the project before the death of Miss Costello, an associate director of a national education project.

Shortly before her body was found, Mr Laudor's mother, Ruth, agitated by a telephone conversation with him, had asked police to check on the couple. Later, Mr Laudor surrendered himself to police at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, the college where he had taken a summer course for gifted teenagers.

He had fled to Cornell, initially driving Miss Costello's car, and then catching a bus. Once there, he reportedly flagged down a patrol car and told an officer that he had hurt and possibly killed his girlfriend.



Michael Laudor, a schizophrenic, with his fiancée, Caroline Costello. He is alleged to have stabbed her to death at their suburban flat

Taken into custody, he was alternately calm and disturbed, at one point striking a police officer, before being formally charged with second-degree murder. If convicted, he faces life in prison. "This is a particularly vicious crime and there do not appear to be any mitigating circumstances," said Jeanine Firro, the county's district attorney. "He's an extremely educated and intelligent man. We're not

talking about someone who is not in touch with reality."

Whether he committed the crime under the spell of schizophrenia or, as prosecutors claim, used the disease as a cover for premeditated murder, the result has been a wretched episode in an extraordinary life.

First in his class at school, Mr Laudor breezed through Yale in three

years, graduating summa cum laude, and meeting Miss Costello. It was only while working as a management consultant that he experienced the first symptoms of schizophrenia. He complained that his telephones had been tapped. Later he began to hear bells in the night and imagined that his room was in flames.

His father, whose death three years ago is thought to have prompt-

ed a decline, nursed him and helped him through Yale Law School where he was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship.

He became a successful lawyer, apparently free of the illness. In recent months, however, friends said they noticed a marked deterioration. Mr Laudor was said to have become withdrawn and had been struggling to finish his book.

Enigmatic exit for Sixties sorcerer

Washington: Carlos Castaneda, the self-proclaimed sorcerer and bestselling author of drug-induced adventures, apparently died two months ago with the same secrecy and mystery with which he had lived. He was believed to be 72 (Tom Rhodes writes).

He died of liver cancer on April 27 at his home in Westwood, California. There was no funeral.

Deborah Droot, an executor of his estate, announced the death in the *Los Angeles Times* yesterday. "He didn't like attention," she said.

Castaneda claimed to have been initiated into an occult world more than 2,000 years old by an aged Yaqui Indian medicine man with the assistance of hallucinogens. The result, *The Teachings of Don Juan*, made him a cultural icon when published at the peak of 1960s psychedelia.

Obituary, page 25

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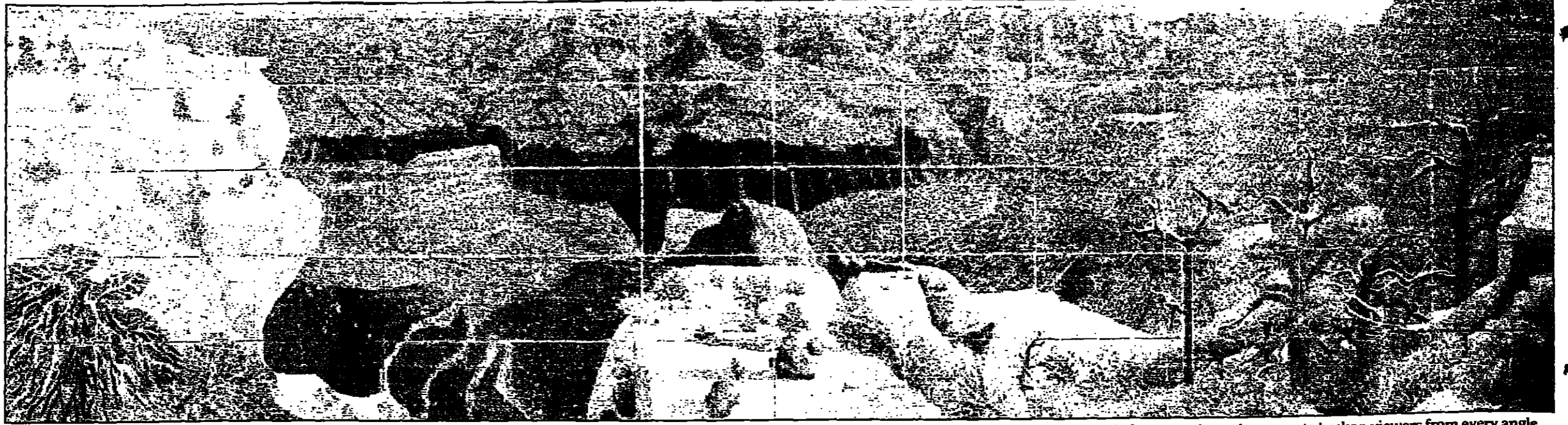
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Hockney's *A Bigger Grand Canyon*, oil on 60 canvases, has been acclaimed as a masterly response to one of the most daunting challenges in landscape painting. It took three months and appears to beckon viewers from every angle

Hockney unveils the ultimate landscape

DRENCHED in colour and daring to match its subject's grandeur, the largest and boldest painting of David Hockney's career went on show yesterday in Washington's National Museum of American Art.

A Bigger Grand Canyon, created this year at the artist's Hollywood studio, has been hailed by American critics as a masterly response to one of the most daunting challenges in landscape painting. It is a literal piece by Hockney's standards, but it boasts a startling innovation: traditional perspective has been abandoned in favour of 60 separate points of view.

At 24ft wide and 6ft 9in high, the magnum opus took over an entire wall of the Hockney studio when he began work on it in earnest in February. It consists of 60 interlocking canvases, each with its own "vanishing point"

Giles Whittell reports on US praise for a British painter's boldest work

— the point where the subject would seem to disappear if viewed from far enough away.

In past eras of landscape painting such a technique would have been considered heretical. Here it appears to beckon the viewer from every angle, closer to the edge of the canyon's famous South Rim.

Using a grid of canvases "helps underscore the idea that it is not one instantaneous observation but different, multiple views that the mind synthesises into one", Elizabeth Broun, the museum's director, said when the show was announced. "These are strategies that Hockney uses to represent the way we see."

The latest offering from one of Britain's most prolific Californian expatriates had been

brewing in his mind for years, according to his assistant. He made black-and-white photographic collages of the canyon after visits to both rims in the 1980s, adding charcoal drawings and scale studies for the larger work last year. It took three months to paint, after which it was shipped to the Washington museum. It is hard to imagine a comparable coup for any other contemporary artist.

Had Andy Warhol painted a vast and windy Windermere for the National Gallery in London, it could still scarcely have matched Hockney's chutzpah or success in taking on America's greatest natural wonder — considered by many the Everest of landscape subjects if not unpaintable.

A Bigger Grand Canyon was, ironically, inspired in part by a more traditional 19th-century effort at the same mile-deep chasm by another Yorkshireman, Thomas Moran. His *Grand Canyon* is in the Museum of American Art's permanent collection.

The Hockney work, together with its preparatory sketches, will form the centrepiece of an exhibition of his landscapes opening at the Pompidou Centre in Paris next January. It then moves to Bonn before returning to Los Angeles.

The travelling exhibition includes what was until now Hockney's most celebrated depiction of the American West — a photocollage entitled *Pearlblossom Highway*, for which he shot the raw images over the course of nine days in 1986 in the Mojave Desert outside Los Angeles.

That work, now a part of the new Gerty Centre's permanent

collection, was *A Bigger Grand Canyon*'s photographic precursor in its use of multi-vanishing points. "I see it as a panoramic assault on Renaissance one-point perspective," the artist wrote.

Hockney has acquired the unique status in America of an adopted national treasure, with two major openings in the national museum in as many years. The last could not have been more different from the current one. *Snail's Space*, subtitled *Painting as Performance Art*, was an installation of a stage set over which coloured lights played in a repeating nine-minute computerised sequence.

Ms Broun, who admitted she found the piece gimmicky at first, later concluded: "It's as though Hockney found light and colour equivalents for narration in opera. I think it's very moving."



David Hockney has taken on one of America's greatest natural wonders

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Pope condemns 'heartless' Europe

Rome: The Pope yesterday began a three-day visit to Austria — where the Church is in turmoil because of a high-level paedophile scandal — with a warning that Europe risked collapse unless there was a recovery of Christian values (Richard Owen writes).

"A Europe without a heart and without respect for human life, a Europe which cares only for money and careers, runs the risk of falling apart," the pontiff said on arrival in Salzburg. Christian values were "the keystone of modern Europe".

He also called for peace and unity in the Austrian Church, which is experiencing a crisis of faith among the country's six million Roman Catholics. The Pope, 78, is making his third visit to Austria since he became pontiff 20 years ago. He will end the tour — his eighty-third trip abroad — with an open-air Mass on the Heideplatz in Vienna tomorrow when he will baptise three Austrians.

But since his last visit ten years ago the Church in Austria has been shaken by allegations in 1995 that Cardinal Hans Hermann Groer, 78, the then Archbishop of Vienna who now has prostate cancer, had abused hundreds, perhaps thousands, of seminary students.

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Handwritten text in Arabic script: "هذا هو الاصل"

Klan march rubs salt into wounds of Jasper

There are no blacks in Evdale nor in most of the other sweltering timber towns of this forgotten corner of east Texas.

Giles Whittell visits a Texas town where the spectre of lynch law still walks

It is not hard to see why he got plenty of black friends. Joanne Mitchell sits from behind the counter at Evdale's 'Go petrol station. "But I wouldn't sell my land to one of them. We serve them in here, but then we have to."

Mrs Mitchell paused, then added in case her visitor had somehow got the wrong impression: "We don't hold with what happened up at Jasper. That wasn't called for."

What happened up at Jasper, 40 miles to the north, was the dismembering of James Byrd, a black man left headless and beaten beyond recognition by three drunken white men with links to the Ku Klux Klan.

Last week they were charged with first-degree murder in Jasper's handsome 19th-century courthouse, the pride of the town's otherwise dilapidated main square. It is here, a week from today, that the Klan has announced it will hold a rally to promote white pride. White supremacists from two rival



KKK symbol of race terror

the help of neighbouring police forces to keep the peace next week: "We fully intend to have this thing covered like the dew covers Dixie."

Reclining in his office, he added: "If the news media ever leaves Jasper, it will go back to being just like it was, only stronger."

Few blacks are so sanguine. Dolores Beatty, 59, a cousin of the victim, agreed that Jasper had known inter-racial peace before the killing, but at a price. "This is a small town where everybody knows everybody and we all know our place," she said over lunch at a rundown barbecue shack. "It's as if there's an invisible line between whites and blacks; and we all know where it is."

Impoverished and historically ignored by the civil rights movement, much of rural east Texas remains a bastion of de facto segregation. "More than almost any other region in the country, it has not dealt with its racial past," said Mark Potoko, of the Southern Poverty Law Centre in Alabama. "It's like an ostrich with its head in the sand."

The signs are everywhere — often literally. A lonely building west of Jasper flies a banner welcoming passers-by to "a colour-blind church". Mr Potoko also tells the story of a barber friend who will not cut blacks' hair for fear of losing white customers.

Against this background, the Ku Klux Klan — the oldest and most theatrical of America's hate groups — has survived if not always flourished. The forced desegregation of schools in the 1950s led to a revival of Klan tuggery across the South. The pattern shows ominous signs of being repeated now in Texas.

Daring mission rescues written-off satellite

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

A SATELLITE lost in space has been rescued by sending it twice around the Moon in a "slingshot" manoeuvre never previously attempted with a commercial satellite.

The result has turned an insurance write-off into a valuable property in geostationary orbit over the Pacific Ocean. Hughes Global Services, the company that pulled off the rescue, is now seeking users for a satellite previously given up for dead.

The satellite was launched on Christmas Day last year. It was intended to go into orbit over Asia to provide telecommunication and television services throughout Asia, the

Middle East and Australasia, but the fourth stage of the Russian Proton launcher shut down prematurely, stranding the satellite in a useless orbit.

The original owners claimed against their insurers, who declared the spacecraft a total loss and paid up. Hughes, the world's biggest manufacturer of commercial satellites, reached a deal with the insurers to attempt the high-risk rescue and took over title to the satellite.

They worked out that, by using the onboard rocket motors to send the satellite out to the Moon and back, they could use the "slingshot" effect of passing close by the Moon



A computer image of the satellite close to the Moon

to bring the satellite back to Earth in a much better orbit. By carrying out the manoeuvre twice, they brought it back into a perfect orbit

23,000 miles above the Earth. The satellite made its first pass of the Moon on May 13. On its return to Earth, Hughes slowed it by firing the

motor again, putting it into a 15-day orbit around the Earth.

On June 1 they nudged it out of that orbit for a second lunar fly-by. The satellite passed the Moon again on June 6, at a distance of nearly 21,000 miles. On its return, a further series of rocket firings put it into a succession of Earth orbits, each a bit closer to the ideal. A final burn of the rocket on Thursday captured the satellite in a perfect 24-hour orbit.

This means that it circles the Earth in exactly the same time as the Earth itself turns, meaning that it stays fixed at the same position above the Equator.

Hughes's engineers were delighted. "The lunar recovery mission team did an outstanding job," Ronald Swanson, the company's president, said. "Everything has gone just as predicted. It really validates the viability of this technique."

The satellite is now parked in orbit until its owners can find somebody who wants to use it. "This is a real opportunity for someone to kick-start or augment their business with an in-orbit satellite, at less time and cost than it would take to contract and build their own satellite," Mr Swanson said.

Hughes's deal with the insurers means that they will share revenues from the satellite with whoever wants to use it. The company is expecting a great deal of interest.

Surgeons 'connived to hide mortality figures'

Inquiry will investigate allegations of a cover-up over heart operations on children, reports Ian Murray



Wisheart: found guilty of professional misconduct

THE public inquiry into how two children's heart surgeons were able to continue operating at Bristol Royal Infirmary is to investigate allegations that other senior consultants connived to hide the true mortality rates from parents.

Tom Treasure, Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at St George's Hospital in London, said yesterday that, as a result of the cover-up, the two doctors who have been struck off the register for failing to stop the operations were given merit awards. "There were things going on within Bristol in the way people negotiated, which were kept within Bristol and not known elsewhere," he said. "If the facts had been known by the committee which grants awards, they would not have been given."

The two doctors, James Wisheart, 60, retired medical director and cardiac surgeon at Bristol, and John Roylance, 67, the retired chief executive of the United Bristol Health-care NHS Trust, were found guilty of serious professional misconduct by the General Medical Council. A third doc-

tor, Janardan Dhasmana, 58, has been allowed to continue to operate on cardiac adult patients, but was suspended from treating children for three years.

Professor Treasure said that in future all heart surgeons would have to be honest with patients about their results and would have to know how well they performed against the national average. "It was failure of the surgeons in Bristol to give honest appraisal of the figures that has led to this disaster," he said. One reason for the cover-up was the drive to treat cases to make money for a trust, rather than send more complex cases "somewhere where the outcome was better".

Maria Shortis, of the Bristol Heart Action Group, said the families of children who died or were brain-damaged as a result of heart surgery at the Bristol Royal Infirmary were appalled that, although a report by the Royal College of Surgeons in 1989 showed the heart unit to be one of the worst in the country, Mr Wisheart received his £40,000-

nionable merit awards. He said: "I think Mr Dhasmana has been placed in a virtually untenable position by statements issued by the Secretary of State, who did not have the benefit of listening to evidence over eight months which was available to the General Medical Council."

As far as the merit awards were concerned, he felt that these had been awarded for a lifetime's work. "I don't think it would be a principle of justice to punish a person twice," he said. "I don't think British justice would stand for taking away a pension."

Sir Rodney denied that the case showed that the medical profession was rallying round to protect its members. The GMC was almost 50 per cent made up of lay members, he said. "We absolutely support patients getting full information. That did not happen at Bristol and that is unpardonable in my view."

He said that there had been a sea change in the attitude of surgeons since 1994. The introduction of audit and surveillance procedures meant that outcomes were known and nothing could be hidden. "I have no hesitation in saying that patients can continue to have absolute confidence in their surgeons."

Letters, page 23



Maria Shortis said she was appalled by the merit awards given to surgeons at Bristol Royal Infirmary

Giant transport aircraft may be leased by MoD

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THE Cabinet is to study a proposal for the RAF to lease four giant £170 million military transport aircraft from the United States to ferry British troops, helicopters and vehicles to areas of conflict around the world.

George Robertson's recommendation to lease the 174ft C17 Globemaster, built by Boeing, on a contract lasting four to five years, is included in the strategic defence review proposals. These are to be examined next month by the Cabinet Overseas Policy and Defence Committee.

The defence review underlined the need to have a "strategic lift" capability — a mixture of large transport aircraft and ships capable of carrying armoured vehicles and ground-support equipment for the Armed Services' joint rapid deployment force.

Although the Ministry of Defence has chartered two roll-on, roll-off ferries to carry battle tanks and other heavier equipment, the RAF has no aircraft capable of carrying "ready-to-fly" helicopters and the newly ordered armoured battlefield taxis to war zones. The jet-engine C17 can carry two Apache attack helicopters, which are now being built for the Army, and three other small helicopters. In comparison, the RAF's Her-

cules aircraft can take only one helicopter, with its rotor blades removed. The C17 can also carry tanks.

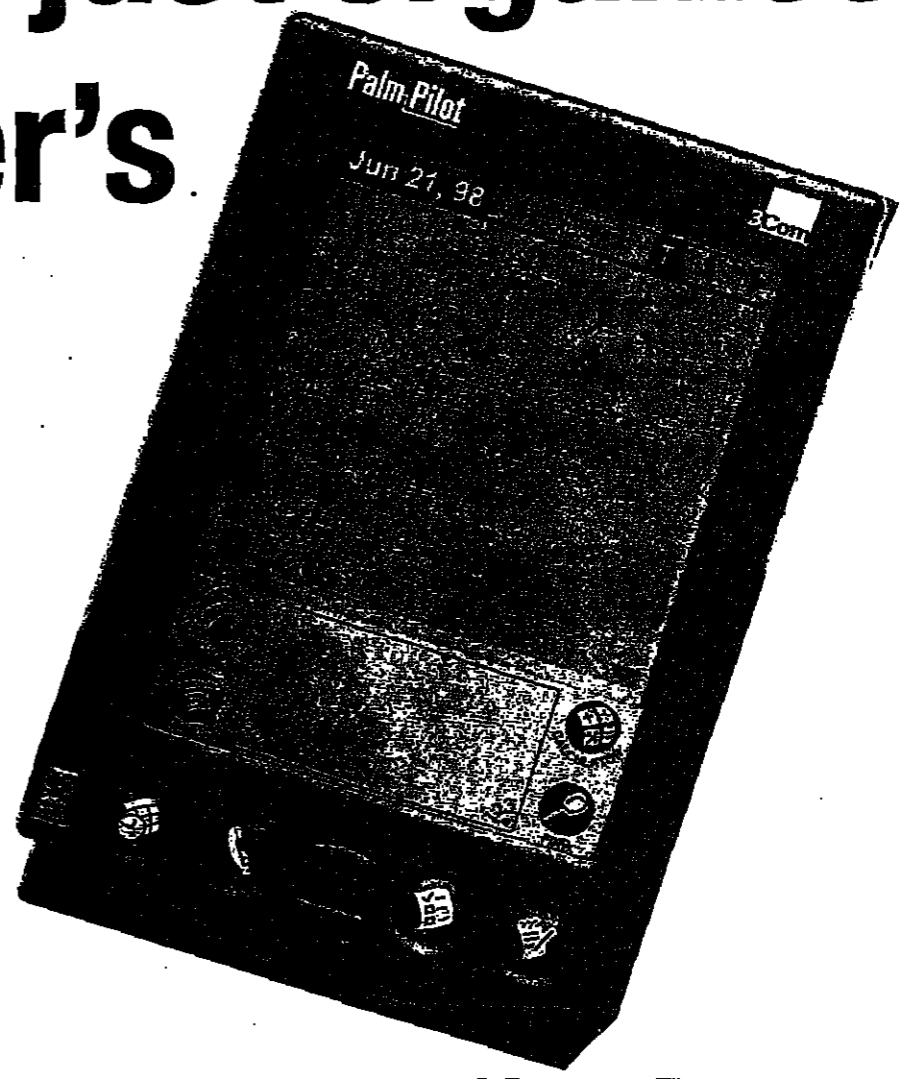
However, although the RAF is eager to have the C17, the proposal is expected to run into trouble with the Treasury. The current market cost of leasing the civilian version of the C17, called MD17, is just under £1 million a month.

The ministry wants to lease the aircraft for only four to five years because the Government is committed to buying 40 to 50 of the so-called Future Large Aircraft (FLA) which is being developed by the European Airbus consortium that includes British Aerospace. The FLA will not be as big as the C17.

One alternative suggested to the Ministry is to negotiate a private finance initiative deal under which a commercial company would buy the four C17s from Boeing and lease them for use by the Armed Forces when they needed them.

One firm, HeavyLift Cargo Airlines, at Stansted airport, Essex, has proposed setting up a company to buy four C17s and to lease two of them to the ministry, using the other two for civilian cargo contracts, on the understanding that they could be made available in an emergency at between 48 and 72 hours' notice.

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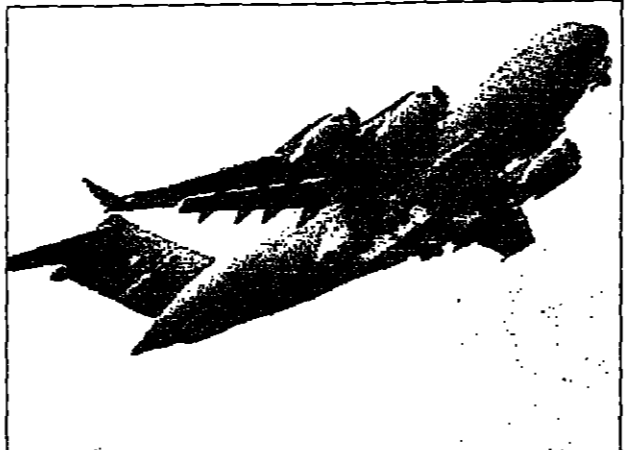


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The Boeing C17, which can carry attack helicopters

Blair pays back leader of the South Bank set

IT HAS been the peer from the television company Planet 24 who has attracted the most attention of all the names Tony Blair has nominated for the Upper House. But Waheed Ali's elevation to the Upper House is of less significance in understanding how New Labour works than the Prime Minister's ennoblement of Melvyn Bragg. It is an instalment in the payback to the South Bank set that bankrolled his rise to the top, and confirmation that the Labour Party that once derived its ideology from Marx and Methodism is now driven by *The Mission to Explain*.

The Mission was a broadcasting strategy, outlined in the pages of *The Times* by John Birt and Peter Jay, that became the philosophy of current affairs journalism under Mr Birt at London Weekend Television. In its emphasis on control, firm lines of command, rigorous research, the upward referral of all initiative to the centre, tight budgeting and consistency of

The ennoblement of Melvyn Bragg is a reward for 15 long years of loyalty, writes Michael Gove

message it prefigured New Labour's governing philosophy. In the words of one former LWT employee, "New Labour is LWT methods and LWT men". And no man has been so loyal to LWT, or Labour, as Melvyn Bragg. The station's Head, then Controller, of Arts since 1982, he was President of Cumbrians for Peace for the same 15 years of philistine Tory rule.

Melvyn Bragg is as close to being a jack of all trades as an age of specialists allows. In an era where broadcasters carve out niches in the market,

Bragg is an old-fashioned rambling department store of media expertise. The presenter of *The South Bank Show*, the biographer of Richard Burton, the historical novelist and contemporary commentator, he has more hats than the Royal Enclosure at Ascot.

And added to them this week is the black tюрбан of a working peer. Bragg will be under no illusions of the extra burden he is taking on. The Government's plans to abolish hereditary peers will make the Upper House a legislative Somme for the rest of this term. The Government Whips in the Lords have stressed to their new colleagues that their honour is an invitation to further labours, not a reward for past. But in Bragg's case, there is more than a hint of accounts being settled.

Bragg sits not just on the board of public bodies and Labour advisory groups but at the centre of the web of current and former employees of LWT, whose efforts on Mr Blair's behalf have secured his deep gratitude. They include Trevor Phillips, the presenter of *The London Programme*, who fronted the Yes campaign for the capital's mayor; Greg Dyke, one of the founders of Channel Five; and Michael Willis, the disarmingly cerebral MP for Swindon North.

The two most notable, however, are Peter Mandelson, the



Bragg, head of arts since 1982, was among the executives who made £8.7 million when LWT retained its franchise

Minister without Portfolio, and Barry Cox, the chief executive of ITV Network Centre. Mr Mandelson's relationship with Mr Blair is well-known. Mr Cox's rather less so. He was a neighbour of Mr Blair in Hackney in the early Eighties and is a political ally. The Blairs holidayed regularly in his house in the South of France before Geoffrey Robinson's Tuscan villa became the bolthole of choice.

Mr Cox delivered a more signal service, however, in 1994 when he acted as fundraiser for the Blair leadership campaign. With the £70,000 he levied, Blair was able to fund an office, hire staff and

publish a shiny manifesto for the electorate of party members and trade unionists entitled *Principle, Purpose, Power*. The title provoked cynical comment even from the sympathetic, with Blair's biographer, John Rentoul, remarking that it seemed "as if merely putting the first and third words in the title would resolve any perceived contradiction between them".

There was certainly no contradiction in Blair's mind in canvassing support from trade unionists with money from millionaires. The year before Blair's leadership bid, Cox had cashed in on LWT's successful retention of its franchise with a golden handcuffs deal. Executives including Cox, Bragg and Dyke made £8.7 million. Some of that money found its way into the Blair campaign and ensured that, for perhaps the only time, Blair could be more profligate than his rivals John Prescott and Margaret Beckett.

Bragg has always enjoyed a reputation for open-handedness, throwing a party on election night last year that revellers still remember fondly. But the generosity of those who supported Mr Blair's leadership bid provoked a backlash, which has limited spending on any future leadership campaign to £25,000.

The closeness of Blair and Bragg goes deeper than the leadership campaign. In elevating Bragg, he is promoting someone who supports his principles. Bragg's backing for Blair was early and has been consistent. His private views differ from Blair's in some areas. He is libertarian on fox-hunting and sceptical towards European integration. It makes him "very much in the mould of Jack Straw", according to one friend. To have such a staunch, but free-thinking, ally in the Upper House can only help Mr Blair in the years ahead.

FOR the 27 new life peers, yesterday's announcement will have come as a sweet relief.

For months now they have been keeping the blinding secret of their imminent entry into the political aristocracy hidden from all but closest family and friends. But now today, their lives will irrevocably change.

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Many will have their first chance to shape new laws, without having to face the inconvenience of an electorate. If they are talented and members of the Labour Party, it could be their way into a ministerial position without ever having to be elected.

Yet many of the new peers will not be quite aware of what they have let themselves in for. First they will have to see Garter King of Arms to agree the wording of their title. Later they will meet other Crown Office officials to fix the date of their "letters patent" and their "writ of summons" to the House of Lords.

The new peers will then meet their Chief Whips to be told that their social lives have come to an end. The new peers, especially those taking the Labour whip, will be expected to attend the Lords late into the evening at least four times a week. Even when they are off duty, they will have to be available for surprise divisions.

The new peers will then meet Black Rod, the most senior administrative official in the Lords, to be told that they will not get an office, desk or telephone. If they are lucky, they will get a locker. Only 319 peers have desks, most in shared offices, and they are vacated only on the death of their occupant.

The new peers will also learn that they will receive no pay. But they can claim various expenses: £78 for overnight accommodation if their main residence is out of London, £34.50 for daily subsistence, and £33.50 a day for secretarial assistance.

They can also claim for first-class travel by air or rail, or car mileage, to and from Westminster and when on other parliamentary business.

CHANGING LORDS	
Current overall total of peers	476
Tories	176
Labour	70
Liberal Democrats	323
Crossbenchers	117
Other	117
After the planned expulsion of hereditary peers:	
Tories	174
Labour	158
Liberal Democrats	46
Crossbenchers	118
Other	34

On the run all day and only five hours' sleep a night

UNTIL last year, Philip Hunt had a comfortable life. He lived with his wife and children in a smart Birmingham suburb. He earned a good salary as chairman of the National Health Service Confederation. His pastimes were going to concerts, cycling with his family and supporting Birmingham City.

Then Tony Blair made him a peer and turned his life upside down.

On a cold afternoon in November, he arrived at the

Lord Hunt had a quick word with James Landale

Lords, doffed his hat at the Lord Chancellor and emerged as Lord Hunt of Kings Heath.

Everything had changed. At the age of 49, the former Labour councillor now commutes almost daily between Birmingham and London. He was forced to give up his politically sensitive job. As he receives no salary as a peer, he became a freelance consultant on health policy.

He broke the habit of a lifetime and bought a mobile phone. He often gets home after his children have gone to bed and is up before they are. Free time is scarce.

Last Monday was typical. Lord Hunt rose at 6am to run through some speeches. At 7.45 he had breakfast with the family. After walking the children to school at 8.40, he did a few hours' work for his consultancies, the Kings

Fund, a health policy institute, and the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health.

Then he cycled to Birmingham New Street station for the 11.45 to London. On the train, he tidied up his speeches and caught up with his phone calls.

He arrived at Euston at 1.20pm, cycled to Westminster, grabbed a sandwich, read his post and rushed into the chamber for the 2.30 start.

After questions and a surprise Private Notice Question, he moved an amendment to the Government of Wales Bill.

After a quick cup of tea with *The Times* in the Members' Tea Rooms, he sped off to a 6pm reception held by the Institute for Public Policy Research, where he chairs a forum on health. He spoke briefly to Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, before returning to the Lords. He was on the duty roster of 15 Labour backbenchers so he had to remain in the chamber to keep the House quiet.

After a short supper with Lord Sainsbury, he got away in time to catch the 10.45pm at Euston. He finally got to bed at 1am, and was up for a meeting at 7am.

"That is the thing about being a working peer - you don't seem to get enough sleep," he said. "I did not realise it was quite such hard work. I am much more sympathetic to the idea of a long summer recess than I was before."



Integrated transport: Lord Hunt commuting

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Anything to declare, Your Majesty?



Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret in Bonza Bay
Secret plan to exempt King George from paying duty was blocked by the Treasury, writes Richard Ford

THE Treasury blocked a plan to exempt a royal entourage from duties on gifts bought during a long foreign trip amid fears that it would damage the Royal Family's image, secret government papers have disclosed.

The proposal to allow a royal party of 30 to avoid duties was made because Customs officials were embarrassed at the prospect of looking into their luggage on their return from a four-month trip to South Africa with King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in 1947.

But, with Britain emerging from one of the worst winters in its history and the country still in the grip of postwar austerity, the Treasury gave a warning that special treatment could fuel popular resentment against the monarchy. Only a year earlier, the spectre of militancy and a pay strike among its staff had forced Buckingham Palace to recognise that the Civil Service

Union could negotiate on behalf of staff.

The disclosure that special treatment was proposed for the royal party is revealed in Customs and Excise papers released at the Public Record Office at Kew in southwest London. They show the lavish manner in which the royal entourage travelled, with vast quantities of luggage, drink and cigarettes for a trip mixing official and private entertaining.

The party left South Africa with diamonds worth, at a conservative estimate, £25,000 — £590,000 at today's prices. Because the gems were given to the Royal Family in "their official capacity", no duty or purchase tax was paid, the papers disclose. This was normal procedure.

As they prepared to sail home in April 1947 aboard HMS Vanguard, Customs and Excise began to worry about how to deal with the party and their 594 pieces of



Princess Elizabeth in Maseru on the 1947 visit to South Africa and Southern Rhodesia. The royal party of 30 took 594 pieces of luggage

luggage. In a letter to Sir Eric Bamford, Third Secretary at the Treasury, a Customs official wrote: "Strictly speaking, we ought to collect duty and tax on them. If we do not, there is certainly some risk of criticism, seeing that the col-

lection of purchase tax on presents from abroad has created a great deal of criticism."

In spite of this, Customs recommended that the party should be treated as a whole and no attempt made to

classify what they had bought and no charges raised.

Then the Deputy Chairman of Customs raised another objection: he was concerned about the "very awkward business" of going through the royal luggage. "We never have interfered with the baggage of royal parties before and my inclination is to let them alone."

The Treasury reacted swiftly. On April 25, 1947, Sir Eric wrote to Sir Archibald Carter, chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise, quashing any exemption.

In the event, Customs officials went to Buckingham Palace after the Vanguard had docked and members of the royal party told them what they had brought back. The total duty payable was £147 (£3,234 at 1998 figures).

GIFTS GIVEN TO THE ROYAL FAMILY IN THEIR OFFICIAL CAPACITY

- King George VI**
A set of matched diamonds, cut but not mounted, from the Government of South Africa, to be incorporated in state jewellery as a memento of the trip. A quantity of spirits and wines from the Co-operative Wine Growers' Association of South Africa.
- Queen Elizabeth**
One uncut diamond to be incorporated in a piece of jewellery and a modern 1.8-carat gold tea service, both from the Government of South Africa.
- Princess Elizabeth**
A matching set of selected diamonds, cut and polished, for a necklace for 21st birthday gift from the Government. A set of five diamonds for a brooch, from Department of Union Goods. A solo diamond, from De Beers. A diamond brooch, from Government of Southern Rhodesia.
- Princess Margaret**
Miscellaneous stones, including diamonds and emeralds, all cut and unset, from the Government of South Africa. A solo diamond, from De Beers.

THE DRINKS THEY BROUGHT BACK

Alcohol returned to the Palace cellar after the South African trip included:

one bottle of Krug champagne 1928, 29 bottles of Perrier Jout champagne, 50 half-bottles of Perrier Jout, 28 bottles of Fudeshiner Bronner hook 1934, 102 bottles of Moselle Berncastler and 36 half-bottles of Moselle Berncastler.

There were also 104 bottles of royal tawny port, 18 bottles of Château-Lafite claret 1923, 21 bottles of Bisquit Dubouche brandy 1830, 19 bottles of household brandy, 12 bottles of rum, 12 bottles of sacrament wine, seven bottles of kummel, seven bottles of curacao, 5 bottles of Grand Marier, 182 cigars and 263 half coronas, 800 State Express cigarettes and 1,300 Benson and Hedges.

A further quantity of drink was returned to a bonded warehouse. This comprised:

118 bottles of amontillado sherry, 88 bottles pale dry sherry, 11 bottles of Drambuie, 15 bottles of Pimms No 1 Cup, eight bottles of Nolly Prat vermouth, four bottles of Italian vermouth, 11 bottles of cherry brandy, 334 bottles of Best London Dry Gin and 143 bottles of Cuty Sark Scotch whisky.

AM! THE 1947 SOUTH AFRICAN... A VERY GOOD YEAR.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Censure for boys who lit fatal fire

Three of the youngest boys to appear at the Old Bailey have been put under supervision for three years for starting a fire in which a woman died.

Judge Neil Denison told the two brothers and a friend — one now 11 and the others 12 — that they all bore responsibility for the death of Elaine Zaczek, 38, "although I accept you were not aware of her presence in the building". The three, who started a fire to teach someone a lesson, admitted arson. The prosecution and the judge paid tribute to the brothers' mother for "badgering" them to tell police what happened.

Caroline claim

Patrick Pade, held by French police for 17 days in connection with the rape and murder of 13-year-old Caroline Dickinson on a school trip to Brittany in 1996, is to claim 100,000 francs (£10,000) in damages, his lawyer said.

Snap decision

A "lizard" found by a man in his local park turned out to be a cayman, Robert Gwyther, 45, from Downham, South London, had his finger bitten when he bent down to investigate the animal, which has been rehoused.

Jailed for beating

A former jockey who beat a girl of 11 with a stick was sentenced to 28 days in jail. Oxford Crown Court was told that Barry Brown, 46, thought she had torn down "No Trespassers" signs at the stud farm where he was a groom.

Victory for SNP

David McGlashan, of the Scottish National Party, won the seat of Condorath North, on North Lanarkshire council, in a by-election, pulling more than twice the Labour votes. The authority has a deficit of £4.8 million.

Long innings

Two old cricket bats found behind a bookcase during a house clearance fetched £7,475 and £6,900 at Christie's in London. The 18th-century curved bats with distinctive hooked bases were bought by a private collector.

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CULTURE
Pierce Brosnan on his latest role, as the Indian chief Grey Owl who was in fact an English conman

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السنة 1352

Valerie Grove on the rise of 'date rape' acquittals

Woman against the rape of reason

Two facts emerged this week from an as-yet-unpublished Home Office report on rape. The first is that more rape cases are being reported, but fewer are taken to court. The second is that the proportion of "date rapes" has risen to 50 per cent. Is there a connection between them? We must hope so.

The courtroom is no place for the airing of private sexual grievances between adults when an evening out has ended badly. Date rape cases provide an embarrassing and unedifying spectacle, which usually leaves both victim and defendant more aggrieved than before. We all remember the solicitor Angus Diggle and his green condom after the Highland Ball, and the London University student whose drinking companion fell naked into his bed and later cried rape.

Anne Rafferty, QC — slim, brisk and sharp, with bright blue deep-set eyes — has defended and prosecuted many rapists: she takes the barristerial view that advocacy is what matters. And she agrees it is obvious that the two kinds of rape are quite distinct. "On the one hand, you have two people who adjourn after an evening together. She says, 'I said no' and he wouldn't stop; he says, 'Well, if she said no, it's news to me.' That is quite different from the evil creature who lurks in the bushes and at knife-point rapes the 16-year-old on her way from the library. They are poles apart."

Ms Rafferty, 47, only child of a headmistress of a Midlands comprehensive and a graduate of Sheffield University. She was the first woman chairman of the Criminal Bar Association in 1995, and her husband, Brian Barker, QC, will be chairman over the millennium: "In our family, we operate a ladies-first policy," Rafferty and Barker, QCs, have three teenage daughters. Another daughter, who had Down's syndrome, died at the age of two. "It changes you for all time. And I'm quite sure it is one of the things that informs my attitude to the job. I keep my mouth very firmly closed when people say barristers are hard and have no concept at all of tragedy and grief. Barristers do not inhabit an unreal, otherworldly."

In her most recent rape trial, her client was PC John Blott, whom she defended vigorously on 13 charges. He was convicted on three and has begun a ten-year sentence — regarded as a successful outcome by Ms Rafferty, since he could have got life.

How does a woman barrister feel, defending a rapist? Ms Rafferty gives me, at dictation speed, including the commas, an answer about "going into court to do a good, workmanlike job to high standards... When defending, I am there to secure an acquittal." Even if she knows in her heart that her client is guilty? "I don't ever know. I may have a personal opinion, but I put it to the back of my mind and get on with being a more skilled mouthpiece than the defendant could himself be."

But look, I say, woman to woman, if you think that your client probably did do wrong, how can you hope that the poor defenceless victim will see her attacker walk free, as they say? "What I want to do is to help the court, including the jury, to reach what is not my decision. I am as affected as any of your readers by the sight of someone in distress, whether it's a rape victim or a mother who has lost a child in a murder, or an old lady who has been beaten in a burglary. But in court I want a professional result. If you are a patient, you do not want your surgeon sobbing in sympathy with you as he does the operation."

This week we also heard that a core of specialist rape prosecutors, to improve conviction rates in brutal cases, will be assembled by the Crown Prosecution Service. The lawyers will meet rape victims to give them a greater understanding of the crime. Ms Rafferty is sceptical about the need for this. "What the rape victim needs is compassion and good manners. I'm not entirely sure you can teach those."

But the public perception that rape victims are put through a second ordeal in court is one that will take some dislodging. Ill-judged judicial comments have fuelled sex offenders' insistence that their behaviour was perfectly acceptable. Ray Wye, who runs the Graecwell Clinic for sex offenders, says these men are invariably in denial.

I recall the 1990 date-rape case, in which the two protagonists had been drinking quantities of champagne together all evening. The alleged rapist was acquitted after the judge said, "I imagine the judge came bitterly to regret that," says Ms Rafferty. "It would not be said today."

The other cliché of rape trials — "You were wearing a leather miniskirt outside the disco" — has also gone entirely. "No judge would survive if he said anything like that now," says Ms Rafferty. "And rightly so. And what about the rapist's right to cross-examine his victim in court? There is a proposal to restrict this right — of which most of us heartily approve. Ms Rafferty says: "I can live with that." "Well, I think if a man wishes to stand up for himself, then prima facie he should be entitled to do so. But when the victim's privacy, both literally and metaphorically, has been invaded, there are grounds for saying the alleged invader should not be the voice doing the questioning. I concede that."

Another huge bone of contention is the cross-examination of rape victims about their previous sexual history, but Ms Rafferty has even less enthusiasm for curtailing this. "In law it is perfectly plain. A barrister is not allowed, when defending an alleged rapist, to cross-examine a woman about her previous sexual history without the judge's permission. The judge has to decide that, without that permission, the defendant will not have a fair trial."

"So the jury will be sent out and the judge will ask, 'What question do you want to put to this lady? Why do you need to know? Explain precisely why your client can't have a fair trial unless I allow you to ask this.' My experience is that judges are vigilant. I have never seen any defending barrister get away with a casual request to explore the victim's sexual history."

"Besides, there has been such a seismic shift in sexual mores: a woman today might tell the assembled court that she had, before the alleged rape, slept with ten men — which is not unusual — whereas the same answer in 1958 would have produced an entirely different reaction. The resentment the victim may feel applies to the inferences drawn from what she says."

Ms Rafferty, one of the highest-flying women silks, says she is not going to apply to be the new DPP. "I would hate it. It's not up my street." I murmur that her name has been mentioned. "My name is always mentioned," she rejoins. "If the Queen abdicated tomorrow, someone would say, 'We must have Anne Rafferty.' It makes no impression on me at all."

DEBRA CRAINE



Anne Rafferty: "I may have a personal opinion, but I get on with being a more skilled mouthpiece than the defendant could be"

Spectacle comes a little too close for comfort

DANCE Romeo and Juliet Albert Hall

At times in Derek Deane's new production of Romeo and Juliet you feel as if you are sitting in Waterloo Station, not the Albert Hall. Scores of dancers thunder up and down the stairs in the stalls past unwitting members of the audience, on their way to and from the stage. So often does this happen that the sheer mechanics of their entrances and exits take on a fascination of their own.

But this is no average production. This is arena ballet, Deane's answer to arena opera. Last year's pioneering Swan Lake at the Albert Hall was such a success that English National Ballet and the impresario Raymond Gubbay decided to follow it up this year with a jumbo-sized Romeo and Juliet in the round.

Deane's Shakespeare staging for ENB is not quite as in-the-round as Swan Lake: a concession to Robert Gaudi di Bagno's handsome set means that one small part of the 360-degree stage is blocked off to provide a wall. Otherwise, the action is circular, with the performance space frequently surrounded by a ring of townspeople, party guests and monks. Deane has structured his choreography so that it keeps turning, giving most of the audience something to look at other than well-tired backides, though the constant shift in focus is disorienting to the narrative.

The shape of the stage allows Deane to indulge in some eye-catching dramatic punctuation points — signposted by wild bursts of strongly coloured lighting — and to deliver Juliet to her starlit assignation with Romeo on a moving balcony. But Deane's decision to pack the hall with spectacle means some of the key solos are crowded out by the crush of dancers on stage.

The choreography follows the broad outline of Kenneth MacMillan's Covent Garden version. But then, Profkoff's score (here badly served by the ENB Orchestra) is so specific that every choreographer who attempts it is bound to reach the same conclusions. Still, MacMillan's shadow hangs heavy over much of Deane's writing and this production is happiest when Deane succeeds in rethinking the ballet on his own terms.

Opening night performances were mixed. Roberto Bolle, the Romeo, is a gorgeous Italian with a splendid physique. His dancing is lavishly accomplished but his acting needs to extend beyond the superficial. Tamara Rojo as Juliet is a gorgeous Spaniard, but the beauty of her dancing is more than matched by the ardour of her drama. Time and again it is she who rescues the spectacle from stagnation, as if she alone remembers that whatever its dimensions, this is still a love story at heart.

DEBRA CRAINE

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Advertisement for 'TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION PLEASE CALL THE ENTERTAINMENTS TEAM ON 0171 680 6222'. Includes contact information for the team and a list of advertising rates for various sections.

OBITUARIES

CARLOS CASTANEDA

Carlos Castaneda, anthropologist and New Age guru, died on April 27 in Westwood, California. His age and the date and place of his birth are unknown.

Of one thing there is no doubt. At the height of his career Castaneda enjoyed a massive influence among a generation for whom the atrocities of the Vietnam War represented the final condemnation of a mechanistic society.

At UCLA he concentrated on ethnometaphysics, a method of studying linguistic communication that emphasises the one-ness of the world.

New Age disciples of Castaneda, but at that time profoundly disturbing to the sorcerer's apprentice himself.

to Mexico to present Don Juan with the book. Castaneda stayed for another period with his spiritual and pharmacological guide, and this gave rise to A Separate Reality: Further Conversations with Don Juan (1971).



Carlos Castaneda in 1951

PROFESSOR A. H. GERRARD

Professor A. H. Gerrard, sculptor and teacher, died on June 13 aged 99. He was born on May 7, 1899.

DESPITE A. H. Gerrard's long career as a teacher at the Slade School of Art, and the acclaim for his large-scale public sculpture, much of his work is scarcely known.



Originality and technical judgment: Gerrard with a series of his sculptures

He had no interest in self-promotion, and once diverted a journalist who had come to interview him, saying that he would do better to write about the then unknown Henry Moore.

whom he later produced a memorial bust. As a stone carver, Gerrard was inspired by primitive craftsmen and the country boy's love of animals and plants.

exhibition attracted a good deal of attention. Also in the mid 1920s, he travelled around Germany researching for a cycle of woodcuts of Beethoven's associates for the Aeolian Hall.

The outermost letters of the incised quotation from the Anglican service were also inclined slightly so as not to appear to be falling outwards.

KEITH NEWTON

Keith Newton, England footballer, died of cancer on June 16 aged 56. He was born on June 23, 1941.

In 1933 he married another Slade-trained artist, Kathleen Leigh-Pemberton, at a new church, St Anselm's, on the Prince of Wales's estate in Kennington.

From 1949 to 1968 he was Professor of Sculpture at the Slade. He was also visiting professor at art colleges in Bristol, Reading, Camberwell, Oxford and in Africa.

KEITH NEWTON

Keith Newton, England footballer, died of cancer on June 16 aged 56. He was born on June 23, 1941.

SIR ALF RAMSEY famously described Martin Peters as being ten years ahead of his time. The same might have applied to Keith Newton, who overcame the disappointment of being omitted from the England World Cup squad in 1966 to become an integral member of the side that reached the quarter-finals of the competition in Mexico four years later.

As a right-back his first duty was to defend, but Newton stood out among his contemporaries for the ease with which he surged forward along the flank.

KEITH NEWTON

Keith Newton, England footballer, died of cancer on June 16 aged 56. He was born on June 23, 1941.

February 1966 when England beat West Germany 1-0 - a foretaste of the memorable 4-2 win that was to follow five months later.

Newton had the considerable disadvantage of playing in Division Two. Blackburn were relegated in 1965-66 and, despite a series of transfer requests, he remained at the club until December 1969.



Keith Newton

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MILESTONES

Eric Tabarly, French yachtsman, was drowned after falling from his yacht on June 13 aged 66. He was born on July 24, 1931.

In a lifetime of competitive sailing that began with victory in the Observer Singlehanded Trans-Atlantic Race in 1964, Eric Tabarly developed a reputation as one of the toughest deep-sea yachtsmen of his era.

for a species of tin) Tabarly went on to win the singlehanded transatlantic race in 1969, two Sydney Hobart races and a second Observer race in 1976.

The granddaughter of the Liberal Prime Minister Henry Herbert Asquith and the eldest of the four children of Sir Maurice and Lady Violet Bonham Carter, Cressida Ridley was largely self-taught and did not come to archaeology until she was in her forties.

she undertook numerous digs in Greece, which soon became a second home. Obituary published on June 18.

Although he wanted to be a cavalryman, family tradition ensured that Fitzroy Talbot entered the Royal Navy. After an unpromising start - through no fault of his own - to his career, he had a good war. In 1961, as Flag Officer Middle East, he oversaw the forestalling of Iraq's first attempt to deny Kuwait's sovereignty. Obituary published on June 19.

Vice-Admiral Sir Fitzroy Talbot, former C-in-C Plymouth, died on June 16 aged 88. He was born on October 22, 1909.



Vice-Admiral Sir Fitzroy Talbot

Equities suffer late fall

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1998 High Low Company Price % Chg P/E

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Table listing alcoholic beverage stocks such as 045 500 Allied Breweries, 046 500 Bass, etc.

BANKS

Table listing bank stocks such as 1009 1174 ABN-AMRO, 1010 1174 Abbey, etc.

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Table listing brewery, pub, and restaurant stocks such as 1195 873 Bevo, 1196 873 Bevo, etc.

BUILDING MATERIALS

Table listing building materials stocks such as 26 494 Anglobricks, 27 494 Anglobricks, etc.

CHEMICALS

Table listing chemical stocks such as 1191 134 Alkermes, 1192 134 Alkermes, etc.

CONSTRUCTION

Table listing construction stocks such as 1193 172 Balfour Beatty, 1194 172 Balfour Beatty, etc.

ENGINEERING

Table listing engineering stocks such as 1195 172 Balfour Beatty, 1196 172 Balfour Beatty, etc.

DISTRIBUTORS

Table listing distributor stocks such as 1197 172 Balfour Beatty, 1198 172 Balfour Beatty, etc.

1998 High Low Company Price % Chg P/E

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Table listing alcoholic beverage stocks (continued).

BANKS

Table listing bank stocks (continued).

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Table listing brewery, pub, and restaurant stocks (continued).

BUILDING MATERIALS

Table listing building materials stocks (continued).

CHEMICALS

Table listing chemical stocks (continued).

CONSTRUCTION

Table listing construction stocks (continued).

ENGINEERING

Table listing engineering stocks (continued).

DISTRIBUTORS

Table listing distributor stocks (continued).

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

Table listing engineering vehicle stocks such as 156 113 ADR, 157 113 ADR, etc.

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Table listing food manufacturer stocks such as 67 515 AB Food, 68 515 AB Food, etc.

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

Table listing household goods and textile stocks such as 117 113 ADR, 118 113 ADR, etc.

INSURANCE

Table listing insurance stocks such as 119 113 ADR, 120 113 ADR, etc.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing investment trust stocks such as 67 488 FT, 68 488 FT, etc.

HEALTHCARE

Table listing healthcare stocks such as 541 119 Alkermes, 542 119 Alkermes, etc.

LEISURE & HOTELS

Table listing leisure and hotel stocks such as 117 113 ADR, 118 113 ADR, etc.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table listing British funds such as SHORTS (under 5 years), LONGS (over 15 years), etc.

MEDIA

Table listing media stocks such as 44 113 ADR, 45 113 ADR, etc.

MINING

Table listing mining stocks such as 1009 1174 ABN-AMRO, 1010 1174 Abbey, etc.

OIL & GAS

Table listing oil and gas stocks such as 119 113 ADR, 120 113 ADR, etc.

PROPERTY

Table listing property stocks such as 119 113 ADR, 120 113 ADR, etc.

RETAILERS, FOOD

Table listing retailers and food stocks such as 119 113 ADR, 120 113 ADR, etc.

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Table listing general retailers stocks such as 119 113 ADR, 120 113 ADR, etc.

WATER

Table listing water stocks such as 119 113 ADR, 120 113 ADR, etc.

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Table listing alternative investment market stocks such as 119 113 ADR, 120 113 ADR, etc.

1998 High Low Company Price % Chg P/E

OTHER FINANCIAL

Table listing other financial stocks such as 119 113 ADR, 120 113 ADR, etc.

PHARMACEUTICALS

Table listing pharmaceutical stocks such as 119 113 ADR, 120 113 ADR, etc.

PRINTING & PAPER

Table listing printing and paper stocks such as 119 113 ADR, 120 113 ADR, etc.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Table listing support services stocks such as 119 113 ADR, 120 113 ADR, etc.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Table listing telecommunications stocks such as 119 113 ADR, 120 113 ADR, etc.

TRANSPORT

Table listing transport stocks such as 119 113 ADR, 120 113 ADR, etc.

WATER

Table listing water stocks (continued).

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Table listing alternative investment market stocks (continued).

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PROF... query... legality... disposal

Japan... yen

For sale: one top store, slightly shop-soiled

Jason Nissé finds Selfridges in a state of déshabillé as it prepares for flotation

The menswear floor of Selfridges is the only part of the department store where its Herculean refit is finished. As part of the grandly named "masterplan", the Oxford Street shop is spending the retailerequivalent figure of £90 million on ripping out large parts of the building to make it easier for shoppers to be relieved of their money.

In the meantime, the inconvenience of moving around the workmen, who occupy large parts of the ground and third floors, as well as parts of the basement and second, appears to have deterred some customers. To what extent will become clear when Selfridges unveils its £300 million demerger from Sears and flotation on the stock market. The figures for the first 11 weeks of this year are hardly encouraging, showing a 25 per cent fall in like-for-like sales. Amid the building mayhem, the first floor is an oasis of calm. Now that the plasterers, painters and polishers have retreated, those looking for men's clothing can wander along a room the size of two football pitches, starting with wild leisurewear at the eastern side, becoming increasingly sober as it moves west, until it ends with City suits and bespoke tailoring.

In a side room at the sober end is a recent innovation — a personal shopping service for men. Only six months old, it is the brainchild of Gabriella Di Nora, who was headhunted from Harvey Nichols two years ago to build up Selfridges's personal shopping service by Vittorio Radice, chief executive. Although she is a little cagey about figures, Ms Di Nora says that the service now has 2,000 regular clients — which experts in the field estimate generates up to £2 million a year in sales.

Though not unique — DH Evans already has a men's service — personal shopping for men is a relatively new concept. Women have long taken advantage of someone

helping them to choose clothes. They like to have outfits brought to them to try on in the comfort of a personal shopping area, with sofas, large mirrors and coffee.

Some women encouraged their husbands or boyfriends to try the service but, according to Ms Di Nora, the two did not mix. Men felt uncomfortable in a female environment and women did not feel they could run around in their underwear trying on outfits if men were there.

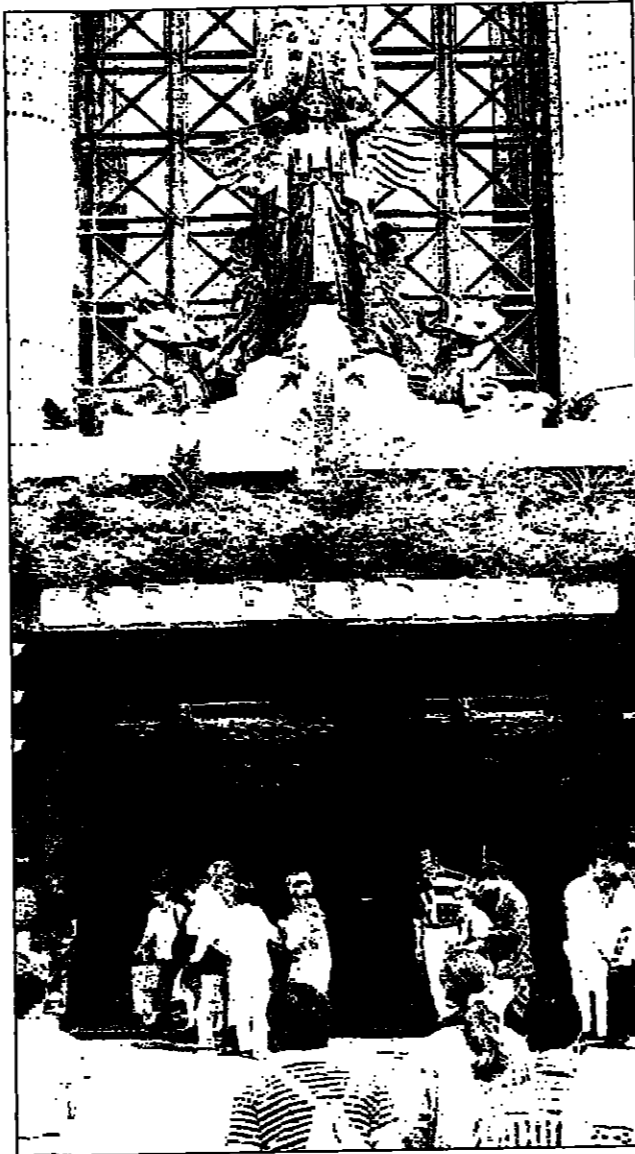
Ms Di Nora also believes that men have a different attitude to shopping. Most do not like to browse. They see buying a suit, a shirt or a tie as a job to be completed with the minimum of fuss. "Men say, if you can have A, B, C and D ready to pick up by 9.30, I'll have it, otherwise I won't come back," she says.

Tapping into this market is one of the few unqualified successes that Signor Radice can claim to have notched up in the 18 months since he arrived from Habitat. Critics say that he has made the store too trendy and upmarket — driving away some of the comfortable, middle class customers who formed the backbone of Selfridges's success. Historically Selfridges, founded by the American emigré Henry Gordon Selfridge as a "community" store, has rivalled Harrods in the type of custom it attracts. But under Signor Radice much of its range seems to be going head to head with Harvey Nichols — hardly a good omen, given that store's shares lost a third of their value last year.

"Look at the place," says one City analyst of Selfridges. "Radice says he wants to broaden the appeal, but most of the clothes I wouldn't be seen dead in, even if I was ten years younger. And the food hall. Lovely stuff but look at the prices. I would not think of shopping in Selfridges and I must be their target audience."

Sales have fallen under Signor Radice, unfortunate before a flotation, but it can be

Sales have fallen under Signor Radice, unfortunate before a flotation ...



Customers are having to negotiate their way around workmen as the store undergoes a £99 million makeover



Model customer Nissé found personal shopping suited him

argued that he has had bad luck. For a start, the strength of sterling and the decline of Far Eastern economies have driven away tourists. Though this was not as important a factor at Harrods as it might be at Harrods, it still shows at the cash registers.

And then there is the refit. There is a strong argument to say that Signor Radice bit off more than he could chew with his "masterplan", but one of the few things to make him angry is the state of the store he inherited. He points out the plastic ceiling that hung over the perfume area and argues that the store was starved of investment while Sears, its parent company, wasted its funds giving businesses away to the likes of Stephen Hinchliffe. His decision to invest £20 million in opening a

department store in the new Trafford Park development near Manchester has been widely applauded and may be followed by the opening of a Glasgow store.

The dismantling of Sears into Selfridges, Freemans and the rump of clothing stores is going to cost the long-suffering Sears shareholders £40 million in professional fees. But there are those in the City who wonder if Sears is following the right strategy by floating Selfridges.

"Given the state of Selfridges, I have to wonder whether the market will give it the sort of value a trade buyer might," says a close follower of Sears. Maybe Selfridges will not get to market and the prospectus, due out next week, will be little more than a giant sales memorandum.

Made-to-measure shopping

Our man in the changing room tries a designer sales service for size

Gabriella Di Nora believes in calling a spade a spade. She took one look at me in a fawn Ermenegildo Zegna suit and said: "No, no that won't do. It makes you look all pasty."

The head of Selfridges's personal shopping business does not believe in charming the customer into buying something he or she does not want. While her assistant — Victor Cadore — will come out with all the pat phrases like "It had your name written all over it," Ms Di Nora prefers the direct approach.

Personal shopping is pretty tempting if you have the time and money. You are greeted

in a comfortable ante-room and treated to a cup of tea and a magazine, while an attentive assistant asks you what you are looking for and goes and chooses a selection.

In the changing rooms, which boast a host of flattering mirrors, Victor presented with five suits he had already chosen as possible. A couple were a bit dark but one — a grey/blue Valentino two piece — fitted like a glove and made me look like the sort of

person I hoped I might become. But it was too much of a work suit and I wanted something a bit more risqué to wear to a wedding.

"Let's try something a little naughty," said Ms Di Nora and returned with two Oswald Boateng creations, in green and purple. They made me look like an extra from *Guy & Dolls*. I liked a Cerutti linen, wool mix in okra but Ms Di

Nora disagreed. "It does all the bad things the others were doing to you but more so." Acting like a surrogate girlfriend — though one that will not force you to spend a couple of hours in the women's department as a penance — she thought I should try dark blue linen.

I liked an Yves St Laurent, though probably because I had something just like it at home. Finally I plumped for a blue linen Canali. The first I tried was not in my size, but Victor nipped out to take one off the mannequin. There was only one problem. The suit was £565. A little more than my wallet could bear, alas.

Mr Yen struggles with a devalued reputation

Eisuke Sakakibara appears to be losing his magic touch. The Japanese Vice-Minister for International Affairs — once dubbed "Mr Yen" by currency traders for his ability to fine-tune the value of the yen by currency exchange — no longer holds the markets in his thrall. Now, it seems only hard cash from America is capable of halting the yen's relentless plunge on the foreign exchanges.

The "Mr Yen" sobriquet is already threatening to return to haunt him. The Japanese tabloid press has retitled him with the less than flattering "Mr Cheap Yen". Critics are already predicting his days are numbered and rumours of his imminent retirement are rife in the Japanese markets.

Mr Sakakibara has long tried to chart the treacherous waters between the cloistered, conservative world of the Japanese Finance Ministry and the fast-moving, aggressive Western financial markets. He is a high-profile figure in a bureaucracy that normally prides itself on its grey-suited anonymity. He dresses flamboyantly, a stark contrast to the rest of the Finance Ministry, which prefers to use stacks of underwear, socks and T-shirts. He leaves work early and enjoys his holidays in the full, opting for exotic beach resorts where he can indulge his hobbies of scuba diving and underwater photography.

For some of his Japanese critics, even his past is suspect. He was educated at high school in America before returning to attend the University of Tokyo. He then entered the Finance Ministry but ignored the standard Japanese "job for life" career path to study for a PhD at the University of Michigan and even worked for a while as a lecturer in Japan and at Harvard.

This US experience has, however, stood him in good stead with the West. He not only understands the workings of the international currency markets far more acutely than most of his colleagues, but has a grasp of



Eisuke Sakakibara's standing has declined with the yen

English that ensures nothing is lost in translation. Teyou Gyohden, another internationally minded bureaucrat who served as Vice-Minister for International Affairs in the late 1980s, says: "He's able to explain his ideas clearly to people overseas in English, and it's unusual for people in the Ministry of Finance to have this ability." Mr Sakakibara first made his name in 1995 with one of the most successful pieces of forex intervention in recent times. Addressing a meeting of currency traders, he dropped the not entirely subtle hint that if any were heading off on holiday they ought to take their mobile phones with them. Shortly

after, he instructed the Japanese Central Bank to start selling in the market, sending the yen down over 10 per cent within a month. A number of major forex dealers were badly burnt in the exercise. Traders took the hint and the legend of "Mr Yen" was born.

Yet Mr Sakakibara's success in West has bred enemies at home. Critics accuse him of being a shameless self-publicist desperate to

high levels of the mid-1990s, are regarded as having only increased market volatility. An accusation difficult to shed with the yen apparently now running out of control. The *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, Japan's main business paper, recently described him as a *macho-pumpkin* — an arsonist who then tries to take the credit for putting out the fire.

Nora has Mr Sakakibara escaped the whiff of scandal hanging over the Finance Ministry. He was one of 112 ministry officials punished in April for accepting invitations to expensive restaurants by financial institutions. More serious was the accusation by one MP that he persuaded a securities firm to compensate a friend for investment losses in 1991. He has denied wrongdoing, but the Japanese media has continued to hound him.

Even in the currency markets there seems to be a growing scepticism about his abilities. Mr Sakakibara may be too Western for the taste of some Japanese but he is a fierce defender of "Asian values". His 1990 book, *Beyond Capitalism*, extolled the virtues of the Japanese model. He upset US officials by not only stalling on an agreement to liberalise the Japanese insurance market but by describing them as "arrogant Westerners". Earlier this year, he caused a storm when he blamed the problems in Asia squarely on "global capitalism" and "reckless" foreign lending rather than on the region's own corporate and economic structure.

Yet for all these doubts over Mr Sakakibara's future, rumours that he is on the verge of retirement could prove premature. He still has government allies, both for his skills in wooing global markets and his eloquent defence of Japan's economic policy. It seems more likely that with a major international effort under way to stabilise currency markets, Mr Sakakibara will confirm his true Japanese credentials and dutifully see the crisis through.

ALASDAIR MURRAY AND ROBERT WHYMAN

TUESDAY

THURSDAY

SATURDAY

FRIDAY

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السنة الأولى

STOCK MARKET



Gloom descends on City in wake of rate rise fears

INVESTORS rounded off a wretched week for the stock market on a drab note with share prices closing at their low point of the day.



Tom Singh, left, with Howard Dyer, chairman, and Jim Hodkinson, chief executive, right, of newly listed New Look

The double witching hour, involving the expiry of the June FTSE 100 index options and futures, passed off without event. But the same could not be said of the triple witching hour in New York.

This opening loss on Wall Street took its toll on London leaving the FTSE 100 index 64.0 down at 5,748.1 by the close.

The sector was rattled this week by profit warnings from both Arriva, down 11p to 332p, and Car Group, down another 4p to 87p.

operator is due to brief brokers about its European strategy on Tuesday. It coincides with Orange and Koninklijke PTT Nederland, its Dutch partner.

Shield Diagnostics moved off the bottom with a rise of 7p to 52 1/2p.

19p to 52p after Merrill Lynch, the broker, downgraded its profits forecast for the year. The rest of the banks ended the week on a flat note with Bank of Scotland falling 17p to 65 1/2p.

17.3 million shares changed hands. Investors appeared reluctant to become involved in the fashion retail sector judging by the fall in Monsoon of 7p to 162 1/2p.

Elsewhere in the retail sector, Carpetright came under heavy selling pressure dropping 2 1/2p to 310p ahead of results next week that are likely to reflect difficult trading conditions.

News of a bid approach lifted James Dickie 2 1/2p to 135p. The Glasgow-based group said it is in talks with several parties that may lead to a bid.

Speculative buying lifted Sleepy Kids 2p to 12 1/2p. The group, which owns the rights to children's favourites like Budgie the Little Heli-copter, said it is in talks with another company that may lead to a merger.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

Table with columns for Current Price, Weekly Change, and Brokers' comments. Includes British Telecom, PowerScreen, Mediatech, etc.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues such as ATA Group, Anglo Siberian Oil, Anglo-Siberian Oil, etc.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table listing rights issues such as Hrdy Oil Gas n/p, Old Eng Pbs n/p, etc.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table listing major changes such as RISES, FALLS, etc.

TEMPUS

Still finding the deals

IN SPITE of consistently outperforming the market, Electra Investment Trust remains one of the least well-known of the second tier companies that make up the FTSE 250 index.

is put in the shade by the 289 per cent increase in value at Fritidsresor, the Swedish tour company recently sold to Thomson.

One worry is the huge amount of private equity money changing the same deals. Electra insists, as it would, that it is not being tempted into over-paying in auctions and that its willingness to take on more complicated transactions enables it to complete deals for about ten times earnings.

However, most of its £1 billion portfolio of unlisted investments is less than three years old - promising further realisations over the next year.

Abbott Mead Vickers

PETER MEAD has yet to concoct a share incentive scheme as attractive as that of his fellow advertising tycoon, Martin Sorrell, of WPP Group.

The next big contract that AMV is bidding for is the £20 million National Lottery account for which it is well placed.

Meanwhile, the AMV strategy of building up a whole host of marketing services businesses is reminiscent of how Mr Sorrell turned WPP from a hospital case to a member of the FTSE 100.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues such as ATA Group, Anglo Siberian Oil, etc.

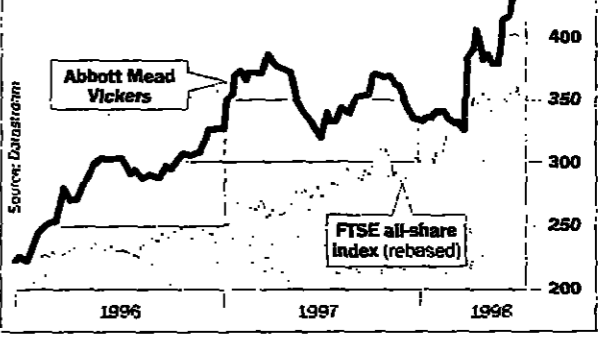
RIGHTS ISSUES

Table listing rights issues such as Hrdy Oil Gas n/p, etc.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table listing major changes such as RISES, FALLS, etc.

IT COULD BE AMV



Abbott Mead Vickers (left) and FTSE all-share index (right) from 1996 to 1998.

Torotrak

TOROTRAK is an all-or-nothing punt. It is developing fuel-efficient transmission systems for cars in an attempt to cash in on anti-pollution trends.

Creightons

AFTER a controversial exit from Britain's biggest private company, Barry Dale is now running one of its smallest public companies.

Creightons

Creightons has a long history of emptying its shareholders' pockets. Even after this acquisition, Mr Dale has much to prove before his shares are worth risking.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including Liffe, ICIS-LOR, GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES, etc.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures including Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, etc.

DOLLAR RATES

Table of dollar rates for various currencies including Australia, Canada, etc.

OTHER STERLING

Table of other sterling rates including Argentina peso, Bahraini dinar, etc.

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street market data including AMF Inc, AMR Corp, etc.

LIFFE OPTIONS

Table of Liffe options for various commodities like Gold, Silver, etc.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Table of London metal exchange prices for various metals like Gold, Silver, etc.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table of money rates including Base Rates, Discount Rates, etc.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposits for various currencies like Dollar, Deutsche Mark, etc.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Table of gold and precious metals prices including Bullion, Kruggerand, etc.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates for various maturities like 1 month, 3 months, etc.

FTSE VOLUMES

Table of FTSE volumes for various sectors like ASDA, Allied Dom, etc.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposits for various currencies like Dollar, Deutsche Mark, etc.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Table of gold and precious metals prices including Bullion, Kruggerand, etc.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates for various maturities like 1 month, 3 months, etc.

NEWS

Blair's staunch allies made peers

Tony Blair's staunchest supporter in the world of television, Melvyn Bragg, and Waheed Alli, the Asian entrepreneur, head the new list of working peers announced by Downing Street.

Pin-up Prince is shy of girls

On the eve of his 16th birthday, Prince William today reveals himself as a typical shy teenager who enjoys pop music, sport and fast food, but who finds it difficult to deal with the adulation of swooning girls to whom he has become a pin-up.

'French police plot'

British security chiefs condemned Glenn Hoddle's suggestion that police encouraged the rioting in Marseilles so as to arrest ring-leaders.

Payout for inmate

In a test case a woman has received £5,000 for being kept in prison longer than she should have been.

Palace ends rule

The Queen has agreed to the ending of the rule that kept government papers relating to the Royal Family secret.

South Bank set

Tony Blair's ennoblement of Melvyn Bragg is an instalment in the payback to the South Bank set that bankrupted him.

Mail paid Woodward

The Daily Mail admitted paying Louise Woodward's parents about £40,000 in 1997 for an interview after her conviction.

Farewell to the mark

As Bonn prepares to bury the mark, Germans are bereaved by its loss which they identified with freedom.

Sunny East

The good news is that the heatwave is coming but the bad news is that only a third of the country will enjoy it.

Inquiry's remit

The public inquiry into baby deaths at Bristol is to investigate allegations that other consultants connived too.

Billie-Jo's 'tantrums'

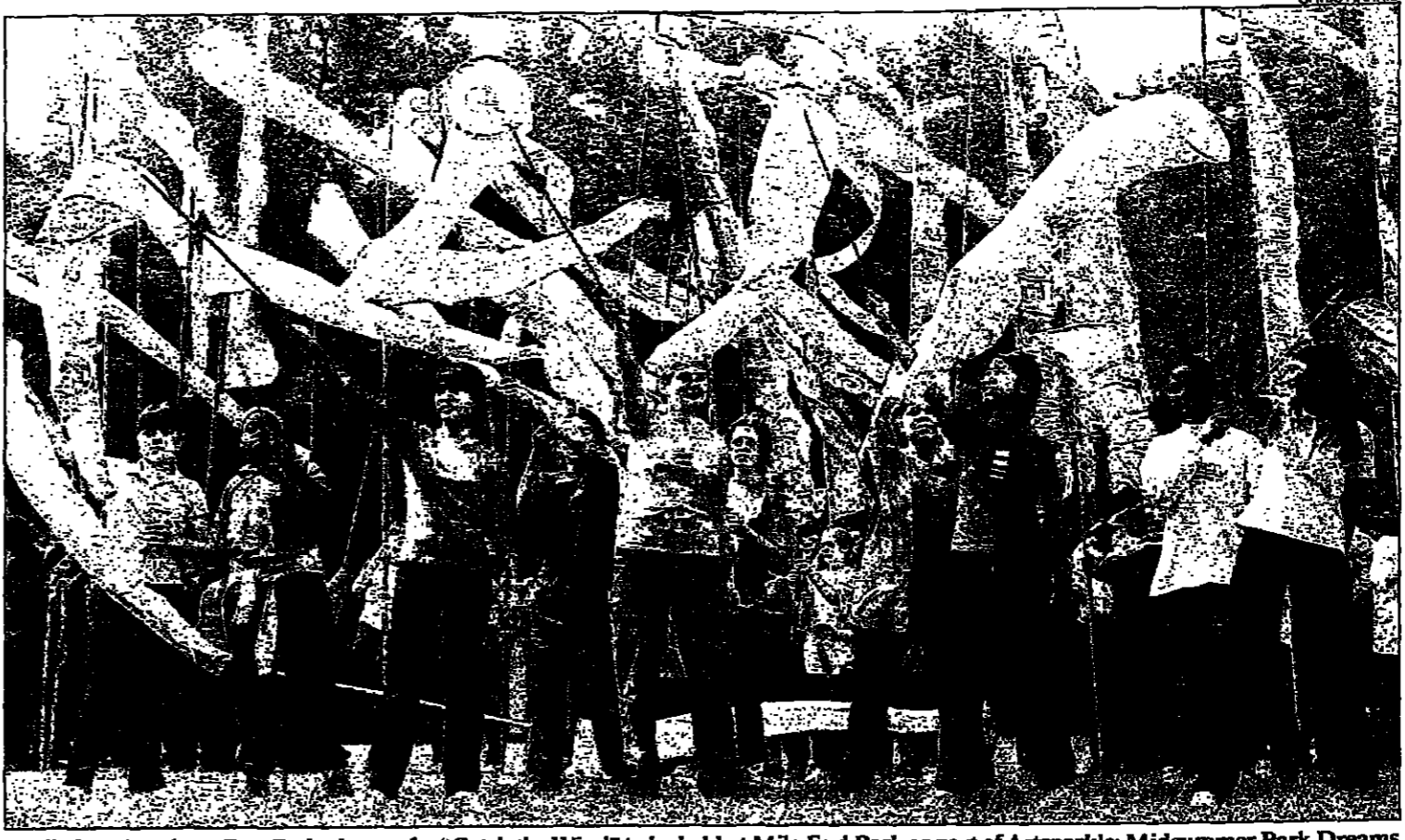
Murdered schoolgirl Billie-Jo Jenkins ripped the heads off doll when she first came to live with her foster family.

Royals taxed

The Treasury blocked a plan to exempt King George and his consort from duties on gifts bought abroad.

Hockney unveils ultimate landscape

David Hockney's boldest painting, A Bigger Grand Canyon, went on show in Washington. Critics hailed it as a masterly response to one of the most daunting challenges in landscape art.



Pupils from London's East End rehearse for 'Catch the Wind' to be held at Mile End Park as part of Artsparkle: Midsummer Park Dreams

NEWS FEATURES

Face paint: The props, style and celebrations of fans tell tales of nations.

Monumental growth: When Tony Blair declares the Millennium Dome at Greenwich open next week, he will find it hard to believe that he is visiting the same poisonous patch of wasteland.

Valerie Grove: The stranger rapist who strikes at random - only one in ten rapists is of this kind - affects the way all women live their lives. But girlfriends and ex-lovers who turn beastly are a more complex matter.

OPINION

American Paris: Mr Jospin shows signs of grasping the truth that France has nothing to be afraid of in a globalised economy.

The Lords test: The role of the Upper House is to hold the Government to account.

A Church's shame: Somewhere on the road from servitude to reconciliation the Russian Orthodox Church has lost its way.

LETTERS

World Cup hooligans: Bristol doctors.

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: No one has ever taken the blame for the British Library.

Ben Macintyre: It would be wrong to assume from the muted French reaction that the English hooligans have gone unnoticed.

Louis de Berniere: I have rarely met anybody who thinks we should keep the [Elgin] marbles.

OBITUARY

Carlos Castaneda, anthropologist; Professor A.H. Gerard, sculptor; Keith Newton, England footballer.

BUSINESS

Drugs deal: Pharmaceutical giant Astra struck a \$10 billion deal.

Robinson defence: The Paymaster-General blamed an accounting error.

RAC questions: Lawyers are casting doubt on the RAC Club's sale bid.

WEEKEND MONEY

Nationwide voters cry foul.

SPORT

World Cup: The debate over standards of refereeing intensified after the four red cards in Thursday's matches.

Cricket: Dominic Cork confirmed his return to form with six wickets, but South Africa still reached 360 at Lord's.

Tennis: Anna Kournikova is facing a fight to get fit for Wimbledon after a hand injury.

Royal Ascot: Jack Berry trained the winners of the two featured races of the final day.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,823

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address

A crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares. The grid is partially filled with letters, with some squares being blank. The numbers indicate the starting positions for the words.

- A list of crossword clues categorized by 'ACROSS' and 'DOWN'. The clues include: 'It may be Venetian marble, but that's as far as one can go (5)', 'Little woman in punt with husband (4)', 'Central section of wardrobe seeming heavy (5)', 'Very hot ordinary seaman in waders (9)', 'Improvised fashion garment (9)', 'Sea receding round very important creature (9)', 'Give ground for a sanctuary (7)', 'Sugary sweetheart embraced by Frank (7)', 'Flourish from bugler at the front to give encouragement (7)', 'Contemptible people belonging to separate schools (7)', 'Turn to celebrate prize in America (5)', 'Thanks to this section, the Emperor came to life (9)', 'Metal bat Australian opener's seen breaking (9)', 'Defective retina almost unresponsive (5)', 'Teller's ability to detect those voting against (4)'. The 'DOWN' clues include: 'Forebear reporting outrageously about love (10)', 'Amelia's slip (7)', 'Create ski specially for winter sports person (3-6)', 'Practice progressively unnecessary for strippers (5-9)', 'As socialist, committed, before one's time (7)', 'Flexible people ultimately remain in charge (7)', 'Enthusiastic wave to audience (5)', 'Darby, for example, has to manage thrills (7)', 'Place that tells juicy satisfying Victoria, for one (7,7)', 'Elected successor of Winston could be meretricious (9)', 'One of Peel's hounds involved in perilous hunt (7)', 'New university getting free kind of energy (7)', 'Cold-blooded type with hidden depths (7)', 'Legislator involved in treason (7)', 'Rendezvous with beautiful woman finally changed (5)'.

Two solutions for crossword puzzles. The first is for puzzle No 20817 and the second is for puzzle No 20822. The solutions consist of words filled into a grid.

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: A I Row, Brentwood Essex; G F Taylor, Hentfield, W Sussex; J E Goode, Mill Bristol; S Hadaway, Lancaster; G Pearson, Thorpe Bay, Southend-on-Sea.

AA INFORMATION table providing road and weather conditions for various UK regions. It includes columns for region, road number, and weather conditions.

Weather by Fax table listing phone numbers for weather updates in various UK cities including London, Edinburgh, and Belfast.

World City Weather table showing 5-day forecasts for major cities like Athens, Moscow, and Hong Kong.

Hours of Darkness table showing sunrise and sunset times for various UK locations on June 20 and 21.

High Tides table listing high and low tide times for various UK coastal locations on June 20.

Highest & Lowest table showing the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in various UK locations on June 19/20.

FORECAST

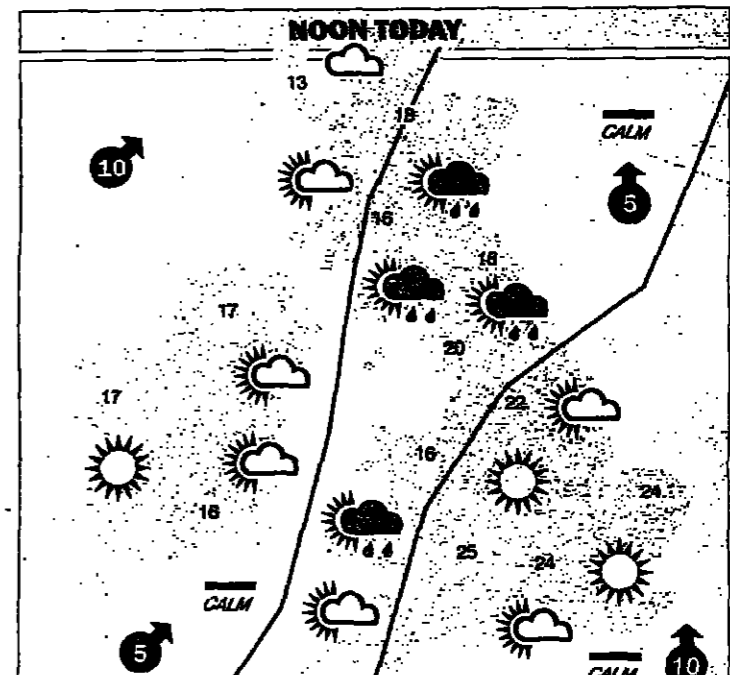
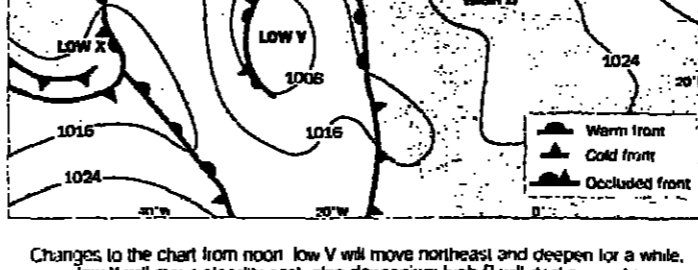
General forecast for most of England, Scotland, and Wales, mentioning conditions like 'hot and humid' and 'hazy sunshine'.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

A table showing temperature and weather data for various UK cities on June 19. Columns include city name, sun, rain, max, and min.

ABROAD

A table showing temperature and weather data for various international cities. Columns include city name, sun, rain, max, and min.



TORONTO OR NEW YORK BA747 to Toronto • five nights at deluxe Sheraton • Niagara with helicopter • city tour • luncheons • theatre • Concorde superonic to Heathrow

PARIS OR THE FJORDS Eurostar First Class to Paris on 10 July • two nights • city tour • Concorde subsonic to Heathrow £399

THE WORLD CUP FINAL Concorde with World Cup Final seat on 12 July £1,999 WHALES IN ICELAND

ORIANA & ORIENT-EXPRESS Orient-Express to Southampton on 20 July • eleven night QE2 Land of the Midnight Sun cruise to the Norwegian Fjords • Concorde superonic from Bergen £2,999

ORIANA & ORIENT-EXPRESS Orient-Express to Southampton on 9 August • four night Oriana cruise to Tenerife via Madeira • Concorde superonic to Heathrow £1,699

Advertisement for SUPERLATIVE TRAVEL with contact information: 0181-992 4477, 43, Woodhurst Road, London, W3 6SS.

SECTIONS the times Cover story: Tom Wolfe on the Nineties... Page 17 Rolf Harris: Singer, painter and TV star... Page 37 Interiors: Ungaro's retreat from Paris... Page 44 Food: Gavroche... Page 65 Life stories: My son the Massai... Page 78

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT



Jaunty Rhodes
South Africa bask in Lord's sunshine
PAGE 43



Luca Cumanì
Building for the future with High-Rise
PAGE 47

£50,000 TO BE WON
Play World Cup TEAM CHECK
PAGE 44



Danny Baker
Three cheers for Austria
PAGE 35

PLUS
Premiership fixtures 1998-99
PAGE 46



WEEKEND MONEY

BUY THE LEG OF A RACEHORSE
PAGE 54



PLUS
FALLING OUT WITH THE BANK
PAGE 64

THE TIMES SATURDAY SPORT 16 PAGES

JUNE 20 1998

CARD GAMES GIVE ENGLAND COACH THE JITTERS

Hoddle puts players on red alert

BY OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT AND MATT DICKINSON

AS ENGLAND tried last night to digest the irony of the fact that the referee for their game against Romania on Monday hails from Marseilles, the city scarred by the hooligans who follow them, Glenn Hoddle spoke of his fears that officials might be about to ruin the World Cup by getting "carried away" in a red card free-for-all.

Only three players were sent off in the first 20 games of the tournament as referees exercised a commonsense approach that appeared to border on the lenient, but which was met with general approval. However, after Sepp Blatter, the Fifa president in waiting, and Michel Platini, the co-president of France 98, made implicit criticisms of their performances, five players were sent off in the games between Denmark and South Africa and France and Saudi Arabia on Thursday.

Hoddle dismissed concerns that the referee against Romania, Marc Batta — who once sent off the Portugal player, Rui Costa, for time-wasting as he sauntered to the touchline to be substituted — may be harbouring and resentment. But he admitted that he was worried at the apparent shift in discipline with the game against the group G seeds near at hand, and that his players were unsure where they stood.

"All in all, I felt the balance was not too bad at the start of the tournament," the England coach said, "but it is changing very quickly. It is almost as if we are

crazy," he said. "The referee in our game was lucky that the Danish people are quiet and peaceful."

Blatter claims that his demand for tougher refereeing was to protect the world's most skilful players, but his intervention has only diverted attention from the Ronaldos and Sheeners of the tournament. People are not tuning into the World Cup in the hope of watching the referees. That is what happened on Thursday, however, as five red and 11 yellow cards were issued during two games. One of the dismissals during France's 4-0 defeat of Saudi Arabia was of Zinedine Zidane. He will miss two games, and should France lose in the second round, he will not be seen again.

While Zidane stamped on an opponent, there seems little doubt that he would have been booked at worst had it not been for Blatter's claim, 24 hours earlier, that referees were not following directives from the world governing body. The same applies to at least two of the three dismissals by John Jairo Toro Rendon during the 1-1 draw between South Africa and Denmark, who finished with nine men. Yesterday, Alfred Phiri, the South Africa midfielder player, was banned for three matches while Miklos Molnar received a two-match suspension and Morten Wieghorst received a one-match penalty.

At Blatter's request, two leading Fifa officials, Michel Zen-Ruffinen and Joao Havelange, met the referees north of Paris yesterday to try to find middle ground between too little enforcement of the rules and too much. There was widespread happiness at the standard of officiating, however — including from Fifa's referees committee — and the belief that Blatter has needlessly terrified referees into overreacting because they fear being sent home was evident in the conflict of views from the Fifa hierarchy yesterday. Platini, who had also called for stricter officiating, admitted that the pendulum had swung back too far. "One moment they do not hand out enough cards and the next they hand out too many," he said. "The referees need to be a bit more careful."

- Truss's Grand Voyage 36
- Nigeria qualify 36
- Calderwood recovers 36
- Frank Leboeuf 37
- Iranian conflict 39

starting all over again. We have spoken about it again within the squad but we have to go out there and remember it when it is needed. It seemed to have settled down, but we have got a French referee as well and he will want to stay in the tournament, so we will have to be vigilant.

"I don't think it is going to be a positive step for the World Cup if we end up with eight-a-side or nine versus eight. If the officials act absolutely by the letter of the law as it stands, you could easily end up like that. There still needs to be a bit of common sense from the referee."

"The main situation is the tackle from behind. Let's not get carried away with dishing out yellows and reds left, right and centre just because somebody wants it. Trying to eradicate the tackle from behind is right for the game and a lot more defences now are staying on their feet. Everyone has got to work within those rules now."

Peter Schmeichel, the Manchester United and Denmark goalkeeper, believes that the type of decisions which were given on Thursday could incite supporters, with England's match against Romania a potential flashpoint. "If the same kind of refereeing happens when England play in Toulouse, the English fans could go



Yellow peril: Mario Sánchez, the Chilean referee, cautions Uche Okechukwu, right, the Nigeria captain, during the match against Bulgaria yesterday

Referees respond to Fifa's card trick

David Elleray on the rights and wrongs of strict interpretation of the rules brought about by Sepp Blatter's intervention

ONCE Sepp Blatter, the next president of Fifa, and Michel Platini, co-president of France 98, had spoken as they did, calling for stricter refereeing in the World Cup, there was little doubt that the referees would react and that there would be more cards. It was something everyone expected. The acid test was always going to be would the pendulum swing too far? It certainly did with John Jairo Toro Rendon, the referee from Colombia, who took charge of Denmark-South Africa in Toulouse.

At times he overreacted, which you could see in his body language. He was overdemonstrative and did not look totally in control of himself. It was as if his emotions were running away with him.

Arnuro Brizzo Carter, the Mexican referee, who had France-Saudi Arabia in St-Denis, did a lot better, as did Mario Fernando Sanchez

Yanten, the Chilean referee, in the Nigeria-Bulgaria game yesterday. If more of the opening matches had been refereed in that way, there would not be the problem we appear to have now.

Looking at the five dismissals, which have been much discussed, it is easy to see why they have attracted attention. I've watched all of them on video and have drawn the following conclusions:

Miklos Molnar (Denmark forward): Wrong decision. I don't know why he was sent off. Was it for the tackle or did the referee think Molnar stamped on his opponent? Looking at the players' reaction, this was a non-incident.

Alfred Phiri (South Africa midfielder player): I'm not sure about this one. The important point to make here is that the referee, having set an incredibly strict standard when he sent off Molnar, almost had no option but to dismiss Phiri. This was confirmed by the reactions of the Denmark players. Once you raise an arm, using it as a weapon, you risk being sent off. And Fifa has banned Phiri for three matches, the longest suspension so far.

Morten Wieghorst (Denmark midfielder player): Wrong decision. This foul tackle from behind deserved a yellow card, yet many tackles like Wieghorst's have gone unpunished during the tournament.

Mohammed al-Khlaifi (Saudi Arabia defender): Right decision. I can understand why a strict referee would dismiss him. Al-Khlaifi jumped in recklessly. He only clipped his opponent, Bixente Lizarazu, the French defender, but had Lizarazu not got out of the way, he could have ended up with a broken leg.

Zinedine Zidane (France midfielder player): Right decision. Zidane stamped on his opponent, Fuad Amin, the Saudi Arabia captain. It was not violent but, much as in the incident involving Patrick Kluijver, it was a player seeking revenge on an opponent. Any player who does that has to go off.

After my column in *The Times* on Thursday and the five red cards later that day, I have been blamed for the strict refereeing by the boys and masters at Harrow School, where I teach. Yet if the referees, from the start, had refereed as the Mexican did on Thursday night — a little tough but fair — much of the brutal play we have seen would have been dealt with and the sendings-off would not have happened.

All this shows the problem of not getting it right from the beginning. The refereeing becomes more and more lenient (you only had to see the challenge on Ronaldo that went unpunished), then come official statements, the referees are suddenly under pressure and the players don't know where they stand. Let us now hope that the tournament will be strictly but sensibly refereed during games in the future.

<http://www.the-times.co.uk/worldcup>

THE WORLD CUP TODAY page 38

Japan v Croatia (1.30 ITV) Belgium v Mexico (4.30 BBC) Holland v South Korea (8.00 ITV) TOMORROW: Germany v Yugoslavia (1.30 BBC) Argentina v Jamaica (4.30 ITV) USA v Iran (8.00 BBC)

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WORLD CUP 98

Austria waltz unsuspecting opponents off their feet

Poor old Austria are without a friend in the world. Just because they play like a bunch of niggardly old fossils in diving boots, there seems to be a move by the intelligentsia to have them expunged from the competition. Yet, at the time of writing, they are unbeaten and have twice jerked the rug from under a public desperate for them to get their comeuppance by way of two extremely late goals. And what goals! Vastice's 92nd-minute belter against Chile is without question the second-best goal of the tournament so far. Had it been knocked in by Ronaldo, it would doubtless be in what the geniuses at MTV call "heavy rotation".

As it is, people are barely acknowledging it without first striking facial expressions akin to *Mirror* pensioners catching a whiff of old Joe Haines. Incredibly, Austria have also bagged the No 1 goal of the World Cup so far. It was Toni Polster's incredible one-yard thunderbolt that denied overblown Cameroon. For those who have been denied access to this joyous strike by the dulled senses of TV sports chiefs, let me describe it.

It was a rare sighting of one of the two types of goal peculiar to matches played among friends in public parks. These two scores both begin the same way. Toward the end of an unravelling game, you weave, giggling, past six pals and finally the advancing goalkeeper — usually a stout and not entirely soccer-crazy chum called Richard — before standing with your foot on the ball just a few inches from the goal line. Now you look back towards the disapproving but helpless faces of the opposition.

"Just put it in..." they wearily groan, hands on hips. But no! You are now a matador, a showman, a conqueror. You have two options. You can either get down on your

DANNY BAKER



hands and knees and gently nudge the ball across the line with your forehead or else apply such force to this most routine of puts that it acts upon the net and stanchion like a shell from a howitzer. It was this latter option that Polster took. Taking extreme liberties with the time and space that he found on his hands and despite the late hour (he seemed actually to defy the referee to blow for time), Toni seemed to stretch and yawn before unleashing the sort of impudent, violent uppercut that, were Cameroon a boxing opponent, would've lifted them right off their feet, rather like Bluto in the final showdown of a Popeye cartoon.

My attitude to Austria changed at that moment and, after the marginally less spectacular gag they pulled a few days later on Chile, I think we underestimate the entertainment value of this crafty old squad at our peril.



Polster proved indomitable against the Lions of Cameroon

Hands up for real class acts

The BBC have got to realise that they are not running a classroom where each presenter's esteem must be propped up and boosted in order that they may spiritually grow. This is the World Cup. Once every four years. Put people on screen because they're good at TV, not because they do play or have played football. Your team is Lynam, Hansen and McCoist. Everyone else is padding.

Grim reality of crossing the pain threshold

In how much pain must a grown man be before he is reduced to pulling the sort of faces that we are seeing in France every 12 seconds? I was once chopped down extremely savagely and, from eye-witness reports taken at the time, I can tell you that when in full flight and total agony, the face falls back on a blank, frozen expression of disbelief and not this sort of silent-movie grimacing we are getting via the satellite. What happened was this. I was staying in a caravan in



Formby, left, receives the popular vote but it is the striking resemblance between the two footballers, Ronaldo and Williams, that provides the solution to the mystery

Smiling Ronaldo revels in image of a golden shot

It seems that the only cloud over a complete enjoyment of Brazil's mastery of the planet is that nobody can quite think of who it is Ronaldo looks like when he smiles.

The most popular choice is George

Formby and I, too, went along with this consensus at first, even though I knew there was a more pertinent comparison lying deep in the national psyche.

Now I have it. It is the visage of the former *Comedians* stalwart and latter-

day host of *The Golden Shot*, Charlie Williams. Williams, of course, was in younger days also centre half for Doncaster Rovers, but I will not be seduced by mischievous whispers about a South American washerwoman's daughter and a

missing light bulb in a Barnsley social club back room.

That said, the "bay window" that both entertainers' upper sets of teeth form when displaying pleasure is truly a genetic long shot and, as such, bound to fuel gossip.

Waving goodbye to an idiotic fad

Whatever humiliations some travelling England fans may have brought upon the nation this week, my eyes filled with tears of pride during the Tunisia game, when I noted that we are unbowed still in one of the most important aspects of supporting. We refuse to take part in The Wave.

I remember being at the Stadio Delle Alpi in Turin in 1990, perhaps the most intense atmosphere I have known at a sporting event. Helicopters buzzed overhead, police dogs snarled and noise of all kinds patchworked into a single, exhilarating tumult. A World Cup semi-final. This was no "carnival" atmosphere. It was manic and explosive. It felt overwhelming and unique. Then, somewhere, high up in the neutrals' seats, somebody started the wave. The game is going on and people are doing the bloody wave.

As it went all along the far side, I determined that I would stage a lone protest against this sappy imported intruder of a fad. I would sit proudly and bellow "down in front!" if a grisly, bedeviled rear end suddenly should block my view.

But I needn't have worried, for, as the idiotic flap turned the corner



Mexico supporters demonstrate The Wave that caused a sit-in among protesting England fans

to my left — bang! — it came to a sudden and abrupt halt. In hitting the blocks where the England supporters were, this stupid fleshy tsunami met its match. Only a few locals, misplaced Germans and Japanese tourists leapt up from their seats and there they hung, exposed and hopeless before slowly sitting back down amid frosty glares.

A point had been made. At several other moments during the evening, attempts were launched to resurrect the sideshow, but they met with no more success than the original. We were not interested. We were above all that and it felt good.

Oh, I'm sure this will be interpreted as just another hopeless example of England's aggressive,

superior, spoiling mentality that so annoys self-loathers and our enemies abroad, but I think it is quite noble and if we do win this trophy, it will be due in no small part to such independent thinking. A curmudgeonly victory it may be, but, as Dylan so rightly said, a man's gotta stand for something. Let's just not make it The Wave, all right?

Fifa time signal for the bored

Perhaps the worst aspect of the World Cup so far is that revolting board that signals how much injury time will be played. Brilliant. A device that actually extracts drama from the spectacle — good thinking Fifa. No more will we experience the exquisite agony of the unknown in grounds, those nailbiting moments/hours when every misguided pass and needless throw-in only increased the pinch of the fans' incessant whistling while the ref stonewalls and goes his own potty way. That was a bad thing, was it?

Matches now will simply tick down as inevitably as your time in a peep-show (for want of an image). Naturally, all the pundits are cooing over this pointless, fussy little irrelevance, even though it's been used in the poor-boy leagues in England all season. It can only be the thin end of the

FOR those who would like to follow the competitions within competitions, you might like to come aboard the Grand TV Balloon Juice Play-off. The present score is beautifully poised thus: number of self-regarding Age Jokes So Far Made By Jimmy Hill: 13,011. number of times Bob Wilson has insecurely said: "Exclusively Live on ITV": 13,008. Game on!

wedge. I predict that by 2002, football matches will be pay-per-view even at the grounds themselves and time added on will not be proceeded with until there has been a thorough whip-round among the supporters.

You want four more minutes — cough up. Maybe the peep-show analogy wasn't so wild after all...

It's slo-mo progress for French TV

AS IS the way with many of the leading sporting events staged away from these shores, the BBC and ITV are forced to accept the coverage of the host broadcaster. They can do what they want with the peripherals — the team line-ups, other graphics and post-match replays — but when the action is live, what they see is what they get. It is what the viewers get, too.

This World Cup tournament is no different, with the British channels having to take the feed from TVRS 98, the French company set up specifically to provide the pictures that are beamed to the farthest outposts of the world. What is seen on the Solomon Islands is seen in Surinam; when Ronaldo bedazzles a defender in Saint-Denis, those in Singapore get the same angle as those in Sri Lanka.

Only the inhabitants of Bhutan, a mountain kingdom



in the middle of nowhere, get an alternative perspective on the greatest show on earth. Which possibly might something to do with the fact there are no televisions in Bhutan.

Opinion on the performance of TVRS 98 is, in general, quite good. Meetings are held regularly between its leading lights and those of similar ilk from the companies it has been servicing, at which much praise is usually handed out.

However, some of its "super slo-mo" replays have been giving cause for concern, espe-

cially when they are shown as a goal is almost being scored or another incident is taking place elsewhere. The super slo-mo is swiftly aborted in mid-slo-mo.

"You lose the value of the replay and some of our editing lads have been going spare about it," Jeff Farmer, the ITV head of football production, said. "Super slo-mo is great, it produces lovely images, but it has to be used right and at the right times."

"In the main, though, their coverage hasn't been bad. It's not how we do it in the UK, it can be a bit unpredictable, but in no way is it spoiling the tournament. I'm maybe being pernickety, but we're comparing it to the very highest of standards in England."

Ally McCoist, the BBC pundit, is a great fan of slo-mo artistry, which was probably seen at its best in Germany's group F game against the

United States in Paris. "I love all those close-ups," McCoist said. "You can see all that pulling of jerseys, everything. It's brilliant."

Some of the slo-mo operators clearly relish their task, showing replay after replay of the agonised looks on the players' faces as they experience every emotion known to mankind. "You can see all that stress," Des Lynam, the BBC presenter, said. "You like that, do you, Ally?"

Questions must be asked, though, of why one particular close-up — involving Jürgen Kohler, of Germany, and Tom Dooley, the United States central defender — not only avoided the expert analysis of McCoist or Lynam but was shown twice in super slo-mo. Kohler was gently, almost tenderly, clutching Dooley's left buttock.

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TENNIS: RUSSIAN PRODIGY DENIES SUGGESTIONS OF SETBACK IN PREPARATIONS FOR WIMBLEDON

Kournikova bows out with injury

By Julian Muscat, Tennis Correspondent

THE seaside attraction was no more at Eastbourne yesterday when Anna Kournikova withdrew from the Direct Line Insurance championships, citing the thumb injury that she sustained in defeating Steffi Graf 24 hours earlier. With Wimbledon night, the Russian described her defection as a "precautionary" measure.

Kournikova's absence allowed Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, her intended semi-final opponent, a free passage into the final. Sánchez Vicario today plays Jana Novotna for the £48,000 winner's cheque after Novotna made short work of Natasha Zvereva, 6-2, 6-1, in the other semi-final.

Kournikova damaged ligaments in her playing hand when she stumbled and fell in the third set against Graf. "The doctor said it would be much better if I did not put pressure on my hand," she said. "It is just a minor strain of the ligament. It doesn't actually hurt unless you touch

it, but I want to be ready for Wimbledon."

The Eastbourne spotlight was firmly on Kournikova after she upstaged Graf. Yet to win her first career title, the teenager has never lost a match at this venue, having twice landed the under-21 title — but she dismissed concern that the setback would affect her Wimbledon prospects.

"I have played enough this week and I think it will be good to rest. The injury is not so bad that I wouldn't play if it was the first round of Wimbledon."

Interestingly, Kournikova draped an article of clothing over the offending digit, which was significantly strapped. When asked to show the injured right thumb and identify the source of pain, she raised her left hand instead.

Kournikova, 17, will be a big attraction at Wimbledon, where she reached the semi-finals on her debut 12 months ago. Since then, her grass-

court game has advanced considerably — as she showed in dismissing the resurgent Graf. She has a better chance at Wimbledon than suggested by her No 12 seeding.

The final between Novotna and Sánchez Vicario is a repeat of their projected joust 12 months ago, which was washed out by rain with Novotna leading 6-5. Neither woman has previously won this title.

To make the final has been a notable achievement from Sánchez Vicario, the French Open champion, who returned yesterday to defeat Serena Williams 4-6, 6-4, 6-4. Novotna, who leads Sánchez Vicario by the odd victory in 19, also triumphed in their only previous match on grass, in the Wimbledon semi-finals last year.

Meanwhile, Greg Rusedski issued the first bulletin in his struggle to be fit for Wimbledon next week. "I am continuing with my physio sessions



Kournikova departs Eastbourne yesterday after suffering a thumb injury

and also some light training," Rusedski said. "I will know more on Monday, but at this stage I am still hopeful of playing at Wimbledon."

The statement effectively confirms that Rusedski intends to retain all his options until the eleventh hour. He will doubtless request a Tuesday start and then hope that a

bout of wet weather — which conspired to bring about that fateful slip at Queen's Club — returns to delay proceedings.

Given the threat of rain, it would be foolish for Rusedski to withdraw until absolutely necessary. That deadline is 15 minutes before the start of his first match.

ation (LTA) announced yesterday that Richard Lewis, its director of international and professional tennis, has been promoted to the LTA board as director of tennis. Lewis's role is one of three new posts established to raise performance levels across the board and to better market the game domestically.

Bjorkman enjoys new confidence

By Alex Ramsay

WITH the supposed favourites and contenders for Wimbledon struggling and suffering — Richard Krajicek is the latest victim, pulling out of the Rosmalen tournament with a knee injury — the form guide is looking somewhat suspect.

Krajicek, who has been plagued by knee problems, is due to see a physiotherapist, although he claims to feel optimistic about his chances of being able to play.

At the Nottingham Open, optimism was definitely in the air. With the men's draw this year at Wimbledon looking so open, everyone feels that they have a chance to dent some reputations — provided that they can first get some practise under their belts.

Yesterday, on the first sunny day of the tournament, Jonas Bjorkman made his way into the semi-finals, beating David Prinosil 7-6, 6-3 in a match that proved to be a little tougher than he had imagined.

Breaking Prinosil in the opening game, he was skipping away with the first set

until the tenth game, when Prinosil broke back. Forced into a tie-break, neither man seemed able to take control, but, happiest when on the attack, Bjorkman's serve-and-volley tactics ultimately saw him through.

It has been a good week for Bjorkman, who is now looking forward to Wimbledon with confidence. "If guys want to beat me, they have to play at the top of

ON MONDAY

The Times 16-page Wimbledon supplement

their game," he said. Scott Draper, the winner at Queen's Club last week, could not be much happier either, even if his game looked a touch jaded yesterday. Despite losing to Jérôme Gottmard 6-4, 6-3, he said: "I've been in tournament mode for 13 days straight. Now I can have a couple of days off to freshen up mentally before Wimbledon."

ROWING

British duo ease their way into final

From Mike Rosewell in Hazewinkel, Belgium

MIRIAM BATTEN and Gillian Lindsay showed no rustiness in the World Cup here yesterday. The Great Britain double, world championship silver medal-winner in 1997, were making a late start to their season because of illness and wanted to establish their authority. They did just that after storming through the first 500 metres.

"We were going to race all the way, but we were able to go into efficiency mode at half-way," Batten said. Their first place, ahead of a talented new German crew, booked their place in the final tomorrow. Their example was swiftly followed by the men's eight, who also reached the final with an impressive first quarter. Ominously, however, Romania won the other heat in a faster time.

Greg Searle and Guin Batten, Britain's two top single scullers, needed two bites of the cherry to reach their semi-finals. After both lost their morning races, Batten won her repechage comfortably and Searle came second behind Jamie Koven, having led the American world champion up to the halfway mark.

The British men's double and quad scullers had a less tense day. Simon Goodbrand and Colin Greenaway, the veteran, progressed directly to the doubles semi-final, while the new-look quads also went straight into their semi-final, giving the older Searle brother, Jonny, a less energetic day than Greg.

Of Britain's 23 crews, 15 in the World Cup and eight in other events, none have suffered an early exit, although the men's coxless pair was forced to withdraw through illness.

BOWLS

Steele digs deep to deny Wales

By David Rhys Jones

ENGLAND'S women defeated Wales, the defending champions, in the opening match of the home international series at Llandrindod Wells yesterday, but they lost on four of the six rinks and relied heavily on wins of five and 16 shots for the rinks skipped by Mavis Steele and Norma Shaw.

Steele, who was appearing in her fortieth consecutive series and her 118th game for her country, took an early lead over the Welsh rink skipped by Rita Jones, but was pegged back and had to dig deep into her repertoire to play a brilliant trail on the last end, which stopped Jones levelling the scores.

It was just as well that Shaw, a former world singles champion, was in fine form and that she was supported by the trio who will line up with her in the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur in September.

Mandy Jacklin, Shirley Page and Catherine Anton helped Shaw to a 9-4 lead by the halfway stage and the English quartet piled on the pressure in the second half to defeat Cynthia Morgan's rink, 24-8.

Wales took the lead at 66-65 and had a chance of victory when Judith Wason stepped on the mat to bowl her last wood on the final end, needing to score five to tie.

Last year, in an identical situation, she had achieved exactly that, but this time her attempt to trail the jack for a count of six missed by a couple of inches and she had to settle for one shot, leaving England the winners, 105-101.

A below-strength Scotland were still good enough to beat Ireland 142-96 and could trouble Wales today.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Today

CRICKET
Second Cornhill Test match
11.0. first day of two, 90 overs minimum
LORD'S: England v South Africa
Britannic Assurance county championship
11.0. first day of four, 96 overs minimum
CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Leicestershire
BASINGSTON: Hampshire v Derbyshire
CANTERBURY: Kent v Nottinghamshire
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Middlesex
BATH: Somerset v Essex
HOVE: Sussex v Warwickshire
WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Gloucestershire
11.0. first day of four, 104 overs minimum
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Surrey

RUGBY LEAGUE
JJB Super League
Sheffield v St Helens (3.15)
RUGBY UNION
International matches
New Zealand v England (in Dunedin, 3.35am)
Australia v Scotland (in Brisbane, 11am)
South Africa v Ireland (in Pretoria, 4.15)

OTHER SPORT
MOTOR RACING: British superbike championship (at Donington Park)
ROWING: Women's Henley Regatta
SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Coventry v Poole (7.30); Eastbourne v Oxford (7.30); Premier League: Beccles v Arena Escape (7.00)
TENNIS: Nottingham Open: David Litch (Cambridge) in Eastbourne

Tomorrow

CRICKET
Second Cornhill Test match
11.0. fourth day of two, 90 overs minimum
LORD'S: England v South Africa
Britannic Assurance county championship
11.0. final day of four, 96 overs minimum
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Surrey
Aps Leagues
2.0. 40 overs
CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Yorkshire
PONTYPRIDD: Glamorgan v Leicestershire
BASINGSTON: Hampshire v Derbyshire
CANTERBURY: Kent v Nottinghamshire
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Middlesex
BATH: Somerset v Essex
HOVE: Sussex v Warwickshire
WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Gloucestershire

RUGBY LEAGUE
JJB Super League
Huddersfield v Hull (6.25)
London v Castleford (3.0)
Salford v Bradford (3.0)
Wigan v Warrington (3.0)
First division
Dewsbury v Hull KR (3.0)
Rochdale v Leigh (3.0)
Scunthorpe v Widnes (3.0)
Walsley v Hunslet (3.50)
Second division
Doncaster v Batley (3.0)
York v Barnley (3.0)
Barrow v Warrington (3.0)

OTHER SPORT
CYCLING: Men's international mountain time trial in Doolittle, 7.30am; National championships in Walsby, 8am
MOTORCYCLING: British superbike championship (at Donington Park)
ROWING: Women's Henley Regatta
SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Oxford v Eastbourne (8.30); Premier League: Beccles v Arena Escape (7.00)
Premier League Team Championship: Glasgow v Strack (7.30); Gorburgh v Walsby (8.30)

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MOTOR RACING: MANSELL FINDS FAMILIAR QUALITIES IN HEIR TO HIS FORMULA ONE THRONE

Lion roars approval of Schumacher



Mansell has taken his aggressive style into touring cars

THE FAINT smile playing around the eyes betrayed a mind contemplating just how much of a confrontation it would have been if two men from different eras had a chance to meet on the track.

Nigel Mansell, the 1992 Formula One world champion, was assessing the character of the man who has inherited his mantle of the greatest racer in the sport. He emphasised the word "racer", as distinct from those who can merely drive fast when there is nothing in their path.

Mansell can see some of his own fearless attributes in Michael Schumacher. "There are a lot of very good drivers who can drive very quickly," he said. "There are drivers, but then there are racers. I am a racer and racing in Formula One is what it is all about. Sometimes I would race to win almost at all costs."

A great debate rumbles in Formula One over whether the high levels of technology have been achieved at the expense of excitement for spectators. Mansell, 44, spoke wistfully of a past in which the driver was as important as the machine. He did not believe that driving standards had dropped, however, claiming

Kevin Eason hears high praise for the controversial driver's methods

that the depth of talent is probably stronger than ever. As for the man he most admires among the new crop, there is no question — Schumacher.

"When I was around, we had people like Nelson Piquet, Ayrton Senna, Alain Prost — all fantastic drivers who were happy to race against you," Mansell said. "That was a terrific era for racing and for drivers who wanted to take part in a contest."

Who can forget the wheel-to-wheel confrontations between Mansell and Senna, or Mansell carving through the field like a man possessed, sometimes tipping the fine line between daring and recklessness? That is why he is remembered the world over, why he can still pull a crowd, as he did last weekend, attracting more than 25,000 to a soaking Donington Park for his exciting debut in the British Touring Car Championship. It is also why in Italy, after just two years with Ferrari, the Englishman with

the droopy moustache and what must have seemed an impenetrable Brummie accent, is still remembered by the tifosi as *Il Leone*, the lion.

Who today, apart from Schumacher, would warrant such an aggressive sobriquet? Of the current crop, there are many fine drivers, but the German stands head and shoulders above them: he can drive sublimely, half a second or more faster than the rest, and he can flex his muscles to fly past his rivals. If his tactics spill over into bullying, then Mansell recognises that the end occasionally justifies the means if victory is in sight.

The Canadian Grand Prix two weeks ago was an outstanding example of Schumacher's ability to sail close to illegality yet produce a drive of remarkable courage and quality to win. His lightning exit from the pits, which helped shunt the Williams of Heinz-Harald Frentzen off the track, cost him a 10sec penalty and yet more opprobrium

among peers who see Formula One as a more genteel sport.

Mansell, though, had no doubts about the validity of that result in Montreal. The admiration of a great racer of the past for the man who leads the next generation was clear. "It seemed like a great motor race to me," Mansell said. "People were saying that Michael was in the wrong coming out of the pits like that, but Frentzen was behind and was much slower and should have let Michael through to get on with his race. You can look at that incident two ways."

"He was punished enough with that 10sec penalty, but he could still win, so that says something. I think Formula One is lucky to have Schumacher. I saw a fantastic race and a fantastic drive by the best driver."

The chances of the two meeting in Formula One are remote. Mansell's comeback being limited to touring cars after three years out of the spotlight. There was a reminder of the Mansell of old, however, as he briefly led his debut race. Then, as he said, "a racer is always a racer in any kind of motor sport". He — and Schumacher — should know.

TRIATHLON

Lessing returns to fray ready to test Australians

BY JONATHAN GORNALL

GREAT BRITAIN will mount its strongest challenge this season to the Australian domination of triathlon when the 11 competitors — five men and six women — take on the sport's best in the third round of the ITU World Cup at Zurich tomorrow.

Good placings in World Cup events bring the points that qualify individual triathletes for the world championships in Lausanne in August, but an increasingly important sub-text is the need to amass enough points to keep Britain among the top six countries in the world rankings, securing three places at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

Leading the charge in Zurich, on his first outing of the season, will be Simon Lessing, three times a world champion and perhaps Britain's best hope for an Olympic gold medal. He will be accompanied by Andrew Johns, one of the five Australians with joint-nationality (he was born in Peterborough) who have decided that they stand a better chance of securing a place at the Games as Britons.

Johns competed in the first round of the World Cup, in Japan in April, as an Australian. By the second round — in Sydney in April — he was wearing British colours and took sixth place. Unfortunately, the leaderboard explained

why he was seeking Olympic status in Britain and why Britons in general will struggle to displace Australia at the top of the triathlon tree. First in both Japan and Sydney was Greg Welch, Johns's former team-mate, who will also be competing in Zurich: Australians have occupied three of the top five places in the two rounds so far. Also competing for Britain will be Marc Jenkins, Richard Allen and Scott Forbes.

Steph Forrester, the British champion, leads a women's team that includes Sian Brice, Annie Emerson and three Australians who have reactivated their Britishness for Olympic purposes: Beth Thomson, who is competing for the first time for the country, Michelle Dillon and Clare Carney.

Carney will be taking on her older sister, Emma, the Australia and world No.1, who is unlikely to need to return to her roots in Stockton-on-Tees in order to secure an Olympic berth.

Andy Peace and Fiona Lothian will be attempting hat-tricks at the British duathlon championships at Swindon tomorrow — they each won the men's and women's titles in 1996 and 1997. The race breaks down into a six kilometre run, followed by a 38 kilometre cycle and a six kilometre run.

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Former England captain looks beyond past controversies to future of achievement

Gatting subscribes to conspiracy theory

He seldom speaks of it now but like all old sores, one scratch can bring out the irritation. A date, an anniversary, a reminder. It was ten years ago this month that Mike Gatting lost the England captaincy just before the Lord's Test. The circumstances were scandalous, whichever way one judged them, and the murky, muddled events of the subsequent 12 months saw the national team reduced to a national joke.

Even now, it is difficult to identify precisely who did what and why but while England, under a bewildering succession of four captains, were losing to West Indies and Australia by identical, embarrassing 4-0 margins, Gatting was twice covertly asked to take over again, and twice the invitation was swiftly, mysteriously withdrawn.

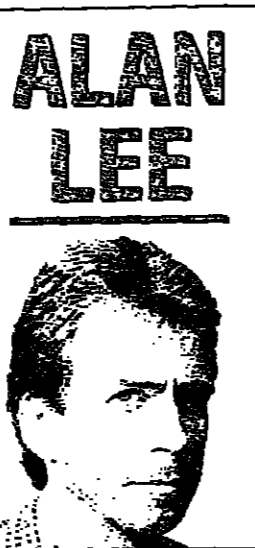
It was a shattering experience for a man whose greatest virtue was straightforward honesty and it drove him to rebellion in South Africa and to inevitable exile. Forgiveness is manifestly mutual now, for he has returned to England duties as a selector and manager, but Gatting will never forget. He said he still feels "deeply saddened" whenever he thinks of the time and, while he denied bitterness, there is an air of persecution, a suspicion of conspiracy.

He speaks darkly of two administrators and said: "I've had plenty of chances to name names, to muck-rake, but I won't do it. I am still polite to them, because I don't bear grudges... but I will never trust them again."

Remarkably, his love for the game has endured. This week, as England prepared for another Test at Lord's, Gatting was in Oxford, still cheerfully pursuing his obsession, 25 years after Middlesex gave him his first contract. "I can't really imagine being without cricket. It's pretty addictive, isn't it?" he said with the familiar greybeard grin.

In his case, the addiction is mighty, for it has survived untold disillusionment. He is 41 now, intends this to be his farewell season as a player and will graduate to coaching with many a fond memory and a few niggling regrets. One is his failure to make a century in any of his 12 "home" Tests at Lord's. Another, of course, is the sense of loss from a decade ago.

The genesis of that period does Gatting no credit. He had behaved deplorably during a Test match in Faisalabad, renouncing with the um-



ALAN LEE

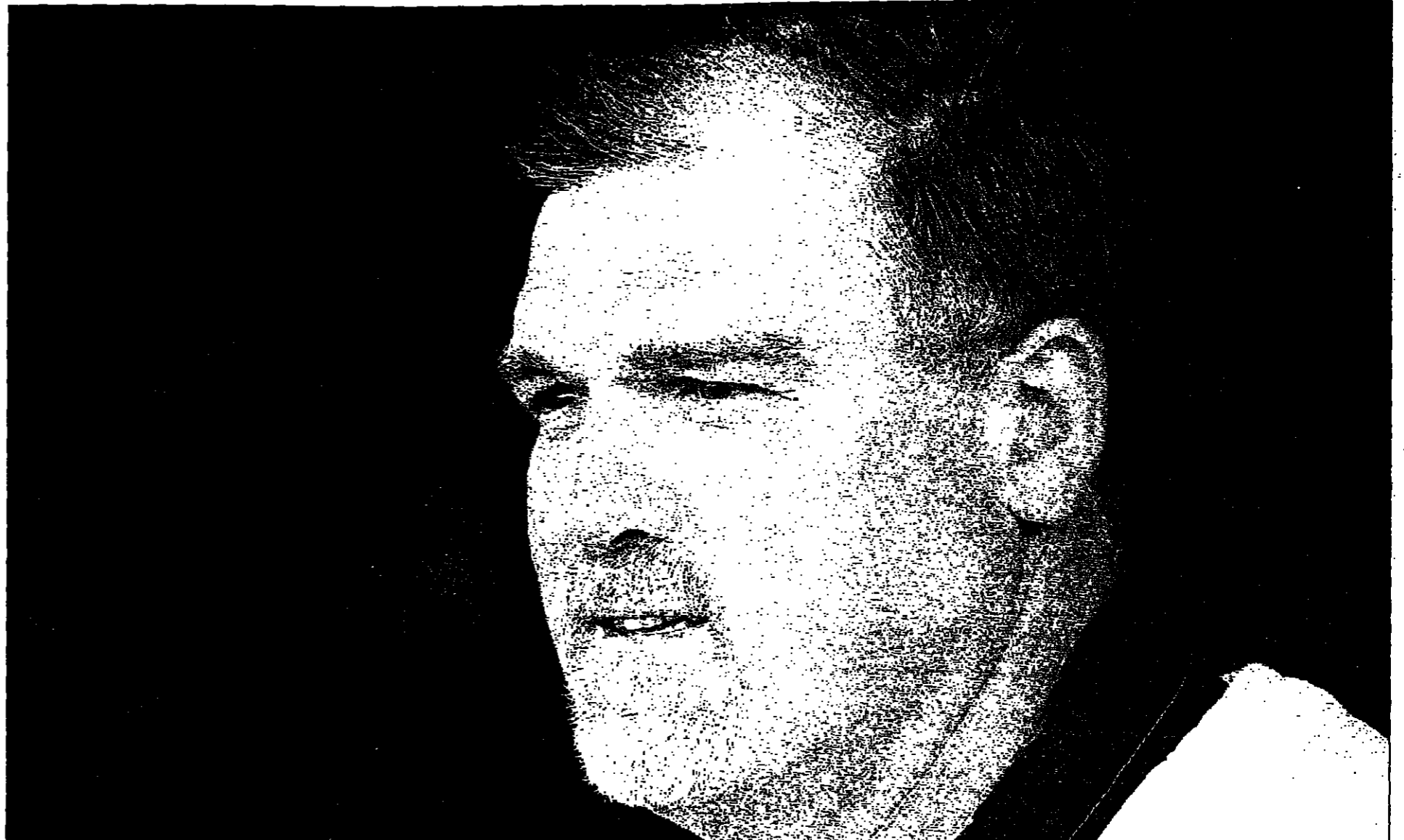
pire, Shikoor Rana, in such unacceptable fashion that, no matter the provocation, he had renounced his right to the captaincy. He should have been dismissed immediately, a view with which he no longer argues. "Perhaps I should have been sent home. Probably, relieving me of the captaincy for a while would have been the right thing to do. I wouldn't have thought that at the time but, when I look at what followed, losing the job in Faisalabad would have been far easier to accept."

Instead, Gatting captained six further games, in four different countries, before some birthday celebrations during the Trent Bridge Test against West Indies led to salacious headlines and to the sack. Gatting, whose epitaph ought to lionise him for bravery, patriotism and for beating Australia, was henceforth doomed to be linked with a Pakistani umpire and a Nottingham barmaid.

He will always be convinced that he was convicted on a trumped-up charge. He also believes, without immodesty, that it was an act of vandalism to the English game. "I think it set our cricket back a bit. We'd got some belief in the side, we'd just drawn a Test against West Indies for the first time in ages and then all of a sudden we were hacked to pieces."

The rest of the 1988 summer was a shambles. John Emburey, Chris Cowdrey and Graham Gooch took turns in the captaincy but the remaining four Tests against West Indies were lost heavily. Then, in the autumn, Peter May stood down as chairman of selectors and Gatting began to believe he might be reinstated.

It was all too soon, the memories of Faisalabad too stark, the sentence not yet served, but because Gatting



Gatting, in no hurry to leave a game that he has loved for so long, dreams of completing a century of centuries, but realises time is running short. Photograph: Brendan Monks

viewed his dismissal in isolation, he saw it differently. "Justice should have been meted out at the right time. No rules were followed and it was handled very badly, but, when the new man came in as chairman, I hoped all that had been forgotten."

The new man, Ted Dexter, was certainly prepared to forgive. It later transpired that he had intended to reappoint Gatting, rather than David Gower, for the 1989 series against Australia but the move was vetoed by Ossie Wheatley, then the Test and County Cricket Board chairman of cricket. Dexter, encouraged by Micky Stewart, Gatting's constant champion, was also prepared to put him in charge of the tour of West Indies early in 1990, eventually led by Gooch, but, again, higher powers prevailed.

"I knew about the veto at the time," Gatting confirmed with a deep sigh. "I had spoken to Ted at his home and we had talked about what had gone on and how we should deal with the press over it. When he phoned to say I wasn't going to be captain, it went against

everything that had been said two days earlier. I knew then that the nastiness had come out again."

"There was more dishonesty later that year. I was approached by Ali Bacher to join the tour to South Africa and I immediately told Micky and talked to quite a few people at Lord's. We came to a conclusion, which basically meant I would be captain of the side in the West Indies, but then certain details got in the

papers when I had specifically asked that they should not.

"That to me was the last straw. I couldn't understand what had happened. Why spend all that time talking about something and then go back on it? It seemed there were always the same two people in the background at Lord's making it impossible for me. I am a loyal person but I felt I'd been let down, not once or twice but three times. How long do you stay loyal?"

So Gatting took the forbidden road and the consequences, and looked for the silver lining. The tour was not completed and it should never have begun, but Gatting likes to think it helped to lead to the unifying of the country and their readmission to the Test circuit.

That's Gatt - blunt, simplistic, seeking the best in everything and sometimes incapable of seeing the worst. His most endearing feature is

his very ordinariness, his lack of artifice or cynicism. "My wife says I'm too trusting," he said, "and probably I have been. But I've learnt some hard lessons. If someone lets me down now, I won't trust them again."

Gatting's last home Test match, like his first, was played at Lord's and he made 59 against the 1993 Australians. Apart from one more Ashes tour, and a valdictory century at Adelaide early in 1995, he has spent the five years since back in county cricket, where Gatting finds endless fulfilment, even if some things are not quite as they were.

"In cricket, each day is different and I still enjoy it hugely. A little of the camaraderie has gone since I started and it's sad that so few young players have a drink with the opposition after play, because you do learn from it. These days, it's usually just me and Gussie [Fraser] in the bar."

"Some young cricketers think they know it all before they've properly begun. I'll sound like an old fart here but

it worries me that too many of them are prepared to do as little work as possible."

Gatting will address such concerns if, as he hopes, he is given an involvement with the England under-19 team during the coming winter. "We are lagging behind other countries in method, discipline and general approach to life - the realisation that it's not all take, you've got to be able to give a bit, too," he said.

Whatever his faults of ten years ago, Gatting has given plenty to cricket and will go on doing so. He hopes for a coaching appointment with Middlesex next year, but the lure of making 100 first-class centuries - he remains stuck on 92 - is giving him ideas.

"I still hope to make five or six centuries this summer, though it's a tall order now. Then I wouldn't mind captaining and coaching the second XI next year... and if I'm still in trim I could nip up to Oxford and Cambridge with the firsts to try and get the missing hundreds." For some, clearly, the addiction never fades and retirement is always something for tomorrow.



The infamous confrontation with Shikoor Rana in a Test match at Faisalabad

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CHANGING TIMES

Time for the cinema cameras to roll again at fictitious final Test

Games, and games players, have not always been served sympathetically by film-makers. Other than Lindsay Anderson's *This Sporting Life*, which told the story of a rugby league player and made a star of the young Richard Harris, who can name a first-rate film which has sport at its heart? Certainly not *Chariots of Fire*, despite its glimpse of the young, ear-ringed Derek Pringle.

Individual games, like golf and tennis, are impossible to portray truthfully on screen. The real action takes place in the player's head. Football, once an honourable mention has been made of Brian Clough's performance in *Kes*, which was not really about the game at all, has come off poorly. Particularly risible was John Huston's stinker, *Escape to Victory*, which offered the ludicrous spectacle of Sylvester Stallone leaping about the goal like a demented midget.

The Yanks have had a go at baseball and, because American is the natural language of cinema, a couple of films have worked (or so they tell me). Certainly, it is true that American stories, like American cities, appear more alluring on the big screen, however banal they may be in real life. *Bullitt* would have looked a lot different if it had been shot in Derby.

Cricket has done better than most, even if the game has often been incidental to the plot. Perhaps that's the way it should be. Harold Pinter put cricket scenes in two of the excellent films he scripted for Joseph Losey, *Accident* and *The Go-Between*. But it was Neil Jordan's *The Crying Game*, of all unlikely things, all the time and Bedser scowls a lot. It's hokum all the way, but what larks! Much of the time, Warner shuffles round the dressing-room in a scarf as big as a towel, puffing on his pipe, dispensing advice and generally getting in the way. In a marvellous touch, he ends the first day washing the pots in his local at chucking-out time, just as Alec Stewart did last night.

The script, written by Terence Rattigan, no less, is a mixture of corn and - when somebody compares cricket with Chekhov's plays - a measure of profundity. For most of its hour and a half, though, the viewer is laughing fit to burst.

Hutton, having boned up on his education, tells a debutant, one Frank Weller, that "if Linder is a conflation of Lindwall and Miller) bounces them. I don't want you to try to hit him for six". Drinkers in the pub are all ears when the barmaid says: "He's third in the batting averages and made a hundred at Old Trafford against the Aussies." After he is told by Compton that he will hit the bowling all round the field after lunch, young Weller replies: "Yes, I think I probably shall." Which is, of course, exactly what Stephen James said yesterday before he marched out to confront Donald and Pollock.

Best of all, that roaring old ham, Robert Morley, is roped in as a fruity-vowelled author, who is greatly admired by Palmer's son and who loves his cricket. Predictably, he ends up, in a reversion of roles, telling Palmer how his deeds will be secure in the record books when his own work is pronounced mediocre (quite true, on the evidence of Rattigan's script).

Rattigan had a deep love of the game and he must have littered aloud when he was writing the script. Perhaps it is time to remake it and to scout round for some likely contenders. Who makes the first team?

As director, we could try to persuade that modern master of the long innings, Ingmar Bergman, to come out of retirement. Peter O'Toole, Albert Finney and Ian Holm can play the selectors and, perhaps, with a nod to these changing times, we can rope in Miranda Richardson to play the president of MCC.

Sir David Hare, as we must learn to call him, can write it and another Lancing College old boy (and knight), Tim Rice, can write a song or two. Lord Arthur of Weston-super-Mare can play an attendant on the Grace Gates, and Sir John Gielgud would make a good Jim Swanton.

It's only a thought.

MICHAEL HENDERSON

CRIMSON BILBLER

that used the game to deliver an important clue as to what trickery lay ahead.

These thoughts were inspired by the recent television showing of that hoary old piece, *The Final Test*, in which Jack "Dixon" Warner played Sam Palmer, an old trooper making his last Test appearance, against Australia at the Oval. 25 years after the first. Hutton, Washbrook and Compton are all given lines. Laker seems to have a fag on

Jack Warner prepares to bat in *The Final Test*, watched by, from left, Fred Haggerty, Laker and Godfrey Evans

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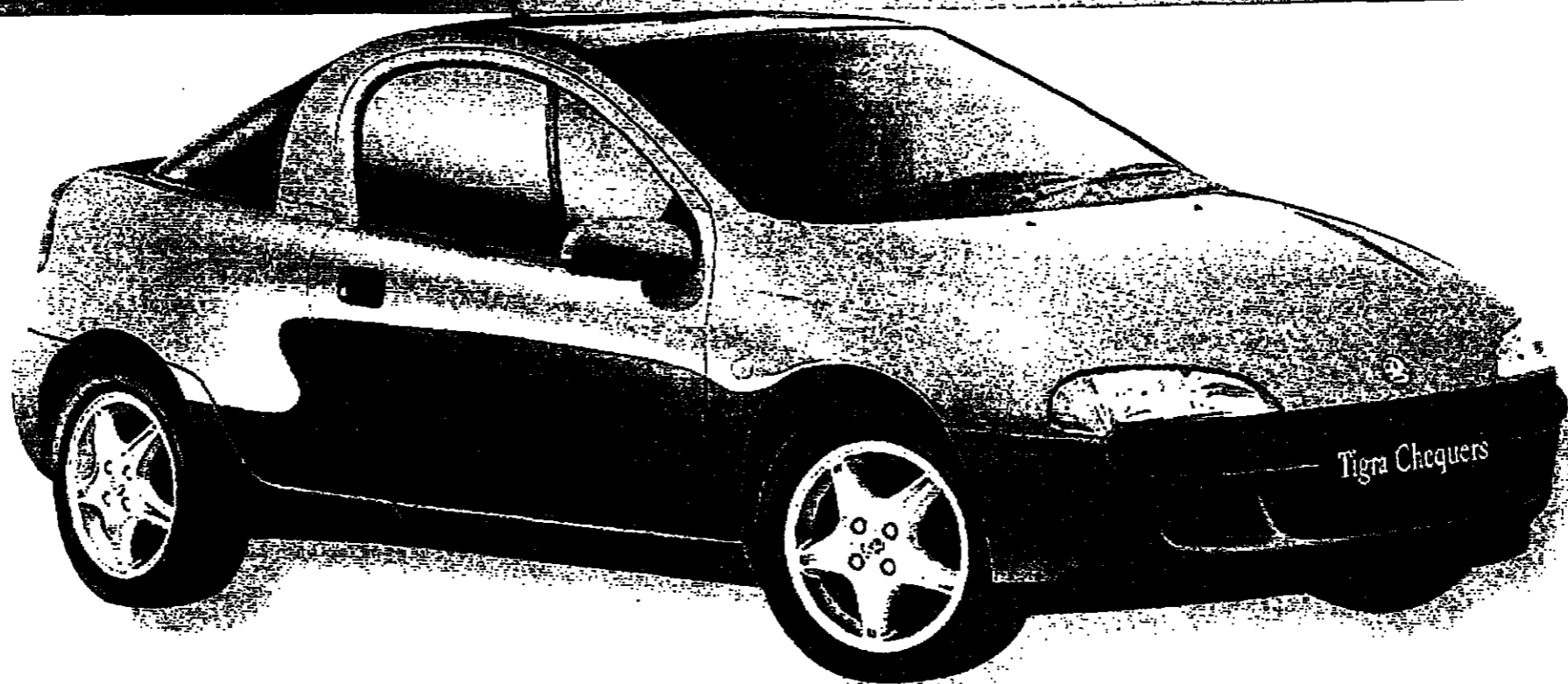
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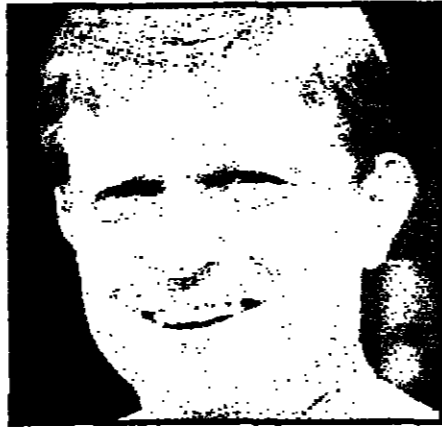
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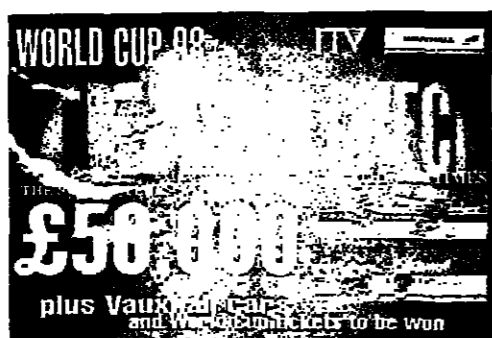
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CRICKET

Yorkshire indebted to Vaughan

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

CHESTER-LE-STREET (third day of four): Yorkshire (23pts) beat Durham (7) by nine wickets

THE "new", upbeat Durham degenerated into the old, familiar struggle in the space of a blissful sunny afternoon. On a blameless pitch, Durham were bowled out for 73, their second-lowest score since being admitted to the first-class game six years ago. It was also the smallest by any team at the Riverside.

Few Britanic Assurance county championship matches in recent times have brought such a dramatic reversal of fortunes. Yorkshire, 102 adrift with only two wickets in hand overnight, closed the gap to 18 runs through an innings of 177 from Vaughan, another ground record, together with resolute support from the tail. Durham, dispirited and disorganised, promptly capitulated, with Stemp returning four for 13, conceding runs from only four of his 126 deliveries, and Sidebottom taking a career-best three for 13.

Hutchinson, barred from bowling at the end of the first innings after following through persistently on the pitch, was still the catalyst, despite being warned again, this time by Trevor Jesty, the other umpire. His angle of trajectory from left-arm over under renewed anxiety in Durham minds, but he became the beneficiary of a first-ball leg-before decision against Speak, at full stretch on the front foot.

Lewis had flicked a leg-side catch off the previous ball and from 16 for two, the indictment of Durham was that they surrendered. Boon, who batted for almost 64 hours in the first innings, could barely be expected to produce a repeat performance at the age of 37. Without Morris, still injured, Durham not only lacked stroke-players but moral fibre.



Shahid, the Surrey batsman, sets off for the pavilion as Wasim celebrates the success of his leg-before appeal

OLD TRAFFORD (second day of four): Lancashire won toss; Lancashire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 35 runs behind Surrey

Surrey batsmen fall to swing

By JOHN STERN

THE relative strength of these two sides was the main talking point before this match, the start of which was delayed by a day. In all, nine regular first-team players — four from Lancashire and five from Surrey — were absent through Test call-ups, injury or, in the case of Saqlain Mushtaq, compassionate leave.

However, by the close of a riveting day's cricket, it was the swing bowling of Wasim Akram, the Lancashire captain, and the pace of Surrey's Alex Tudor that had caught the imagination. There was also the inevitable debate about the standard of the pitch. When 15 or more wickets fall on the first day of a match, Harry Brind, the ECB's inspector of pitches is informed. However, apart perhaps from the dismissal of Ian Ward, who was beaten for

most by one that kept low, most of the wickets were achieved by pronounced movement through the air, although there was the odd awful shot — and a run-out.

When Wasim won the toss there was little else to do but ask Surrey to bat, given the amount of rain over the past few days and the prevailing cloud cover, a decision amply justified by Surrey's dismissal for 146 in 53.1 overs before tea, even though the start had been delayed by an hour.

The loss of five Lancashire wickets in the first 23 overs of their innings, though, evened things up and this promises to be an intriguing match.

Benjamin took the first two wickets, although the shots played by Wood, who mistimed a pull to mid-on and Crawley, who played a back-foot drive straight to cover, fell much to be desired. Crawley had previously kept wicket in place of the injured Hegg.

From 16 for three, Surrey staged a brief recovery through the efforts of Brown and Adam Holloake but that was ended by Martin, who produced a fine outswinger to have Brown caught by Flintoff at first slip. Two overs later, Holloake brought about his own downfall by top-edging a pull off Martin to Wasim at mid-on.

Having opened from the Streford End, Wasim later switched to the Warwick Road End and managed to produce quite alarming movement through the air with expert use of reverse swing. He also bowled the odd wide, so far did the occasional ball move.

Barty was bowled by a superb in-dweller but the ball that bowled Ben Holloake was quite magnificent. It swung in and then seemed away to hit the middle and off stumps, giving Wasim his fourth wicket.

Even the three notable absentees from Surrey's batting order would have struggled to keep that one out.

Centurion Nixon leaves Glamorgan stumped

By BARNEY SPENDER

CARDIFF (third day of four): Glamorgan need 285 runs to beat Leicestershire with all second-innings wickets in hand

ANY game that loses a day and a half is always a likely candidate for a contrived finish and such is the case at Sophia Gardens, where the afternoon's play bordered on the aimless as Glamorgan and Leicestershire jockeyed for a suitable bargaining position for the final flourish today.

However, with the arrival of the sun, the day's other bright spot was the batting of Paul Nixon, who made the most of Glamorgan's recent phobia of opposition stumpers by hitting the ninth hundred of his career and rescuing his side from immediate danger.

In their past two matches, the

Phillips offers Kent hope

By SIMON WILDE

CANTERBURY (third day of four): Nottinghamshire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 178 runs ahead of Kent

BEN PHILLIPS, the promising young Kent fast bowler, has given his side hope of reprieve in their match with Nottinghamshire at the St Lawrence ground, but in an unlikely manner. He was not instrumental with the ball — with which he has been unable to match his success last year — but with the bat, and in uncharacteristically obstructive manner.

When play began yesterday, Kent were 150 for seven and in deep trouble, still four runs short of saving the follow-on. Robert Key, 59 not out overnight and holding the innings together, continued to use his feet positively and brightly moved to the second century of a county career that is still only weeks old. But after an hour he fell for his highest score of 115 with his

side 228 for eight, still 81 behind and not out of the woods.

But Phillips was still there — and he stayed there up to lunch and 35 minutes before, excellently supported by McCague. But while McCague maintained his reputation as an old-fashioned tailender by thumping his way to 38, Phillips, who stands off 6in, got his head over the ball to defend.

Defend, defend. When last man out, driving a low return catch to Bowen, Phillips had faced 170 balls, 158 of which were dot balls. The scoring strokes during his 196-minute stay were three fours, two twos and seven singles.

The result was that Kent conceded a first-innings deficit of only 26 and used up sufficient time to leave their opponents facing a stiff task to engineer a winning position. Nottinghamshire's plans were

not helped by injuries to two players. Oram aggravated a shin complaint in the over after he dismissed Key, forcing him to leave the field, and in the first over of their second innings Downman, having been struck on the side of his right knee by McCague's second ball, pulled up after taking a single off the next delivery.

Whether either will bowl today is uncertain. Downman's replacement, Afzaal, was soon dispatched during a lively opening spell from McCague, whose bowling was lifted by his baring exploits in a way that Phillips's was not, but this only reunited Gallian and Robinson, who proceeded to share their second century partnership of the match. This one was livelier than the first but, although both were doubtless satisfied to score further half-centuries, their side's best chance of victory now rests with a negotiated declaration.

Giddins marks return to Sussex with key wickets

By RUPERT COX

HOVE (third day of four): Warwickshire have a first-innings lead of 318 runs over Sussex

RETURNING to Hove for the first time since Sussex dispensed with his services in August 1996, after he had failed a random drugs test, Ed Giddins came back to underline his former employers. His dismissal of key batsmen threatened Sussex with the follow-on and, in so doing, gave Warwickshire the chance to end a wretched sequence of results.

It has been a strange return for Giddins. Rain, bad light and Warwickshire's lengthy occupation of the crease left him high on redundant for two days, barring providing a specimen for another random drugs test that involved all 22 players.

But when finally he saw action, Giddins demonstrated the vigour born out of a year away from the grind of professional cricket. In a two-over spell, he accounted for the core of the Sussex batting as Chris Adams, after a series of robust strokes, edged behind and Michael Bevan was adjudged leg-before. Despite Bevan's obvious ire, intimating that he had hit the ball, the dismissal gave Giddins his 39th first-class victim and, with Allan Donald liable to return next summer, it sets up the possibility of a potent pairing.

Though Warwickshire's decision to bat on, into a third day, backfired when Ashley Giles was bowled by Jason Lewry's first ball of the day, Giddins quickly made amends by inducing Wasim Khan, the former Warwickshire batsman, to edge the first of five catches to Keith Piper.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Table of cricket scores for various matches including Leicestershire v Durham, Glamorgan v Leicestershire, and Yorkshire v Durham.

Table of cricket scores for various matches including Lancashire v Surrey, Kent v Nottinghamshire, and Northamptonshire v Middlesex.

Table of cricket scores for various matches including Somerset v Essex, Warwickshire v Gloucestershire, and Sussex v Warwickshire.

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Rivals line up for early challenge to Arsenal



Bassett: pragmatic

ARSENAL may have won the Double and worn an air of invincibility on their majestic march through May, but that counts for nothing in the balmy heat of late summer. As Dave Bassett, the manager of newly-promoted Nottingham Forest, Arsenal's first opponents in the FA Cup Premier Cup, said with his usual pragmatic air: "We all start even on the opening day."

Bassett has no fears about the trip to Highbury on August 16. "There are no champions in the first month of the season, nobody gives the title out then," he said. "I never lose any sleep over fixtures, because you have to play against every team in the end."

David Maddock casts his eye over the Premiership fixture list and assesses the contenders' close-season spending

He has a point. Arsenal travel to Liverpool, Chelsea and then entertain Manchester United within the first month of the season. If they can get those games out of the way with a few points in the bag, then they will enhance their position as title favourites once more.

Most interesting of all the early fixtures is the visit of Arsenal to Stamford Bridge on September 9. Chelsea have been the one club in early summer to ignore the shop window of the World Cup and

get their purchases in quickly. Good ones they look, too. There are few better defenders in Europe than Marcel Desailly, while Brian Laudrup is another player of obvious quality.

Chelsea are reported in the German press to be first in line to sign Andy Möller, the experienced international midfielder player. Add him to the riches that they have already accumulated — players such as Albert Ferrer and Pierluigi Casiraghi — and they have the look of champi-

ons, if only Gianluca Vialli, the manager, can weld together his new signings swiftly.

Casiraghi is the most interesting of all the signings thus far. He is a proven goalscorer and, for all Chelsea's attacking flair last season, no one reached 20 goals, which partly explains why they did so well in the cups but not nearly so well in the league. To win the title, consistency in front of goal is an absolute necessity.

The other title contenders have not been nearly so busy. Only Manchester United

have dipped their toe in the market. Ferguson, sensing a deficiency that cost the title, went out and spent £10 million on a defender — Jaap Stam, of PSV Eindhoven and Holland.

United will be even more parsimonious now, but have they the attacking flair to prove genuine title contenders? Sheringham and Cole have the look of yesterday's men and it may be that Ferguson will need to enter the market in search of a striker if the Old Trafford

club is to substantiate its claims to the title. His decision not to buy Marcelo Salas is already looking flawed, but the shop window in France is piled high with alternatives.

Gabriel Batistuta, of Argentina, appears to be a likely candidate, especially as the Fiorentina forward has announced that he will take time out at the end of the tournament to ponder his future.

Back to the fixture list — which now includes the early Sky fixtures — and one trend is obvious. Of the four most serious title contenders — Arsenal, Manchester United, Liverpool and Chelsea — not one will face another in the final two months of the season.



Ferguson: needs flair

ARSENAL	ASTON VILLA	BLACKBURN	CHARLTON	CHELSEA	COVENTRY CITY	DERBY COUNTY	EVERTON	LEEDS UNITED	LEICESTER CITY
Aug 17 Nottm Forest (h)	Aug 15 Everton (a)	Aug 15 Derby (h)	Aug 15 Newcastle (a)	Aug 15 Coventry (a)	Aug 15 Chelsea (h)	Aug 15 Blackburn (h)	Aug 15 Aston Villa (h)	Aug 15 Middlesbrough (a)	Aug 15 Man Utd (a)
22 Liverpool (a)	23 Middlesbrough (h)	24 Leeds (a)	22 Southampton (h)	22 Newcastle (h)	22 Nottm Forest (a)	22 Wimbledon (a)	22 Leicester (a)	22 Blackburn (h)	22 Everton (h)
29 Charlton (h)	29 Sheff Wed (a)	29 Leicester (h)	29 Arsenal (a)	29 Arsenal (h)	29 West Ham (h)	29 Middlesbrough (a)	29 Tottenham (h)	29 Wimbledon (h)	29 Blackburn (h)
Sept 9 Chelsea (a)	9 Newcastle (h)	9 Tottenham (a)	9 Man Utd (h)	9 Liverpool (a)	9 Liverpool (h)	9 Sheff Wed (h)	9 Nottm Forest (a)	9 Southampton (h)	9 Middlesbrough (h)
12 Leicester (a)	12 Wimbledon (h)	12 Sheff Wed (a)	12 Derby (h)	12 Blackburn (a)	12 Man Utd (a)	12 Charlton (a)	12 Leeds (h)	12 Everton (a)	12 Arsenal (h)
20 Man Utd (h)	19 Leeds (a)	21 Chelsea (h)	19 Liverpool (a)	26 Middlesbrough (h)	19 Newcastle (h)	19 Leicester (h)	19 Middlesbrough (a)	19 Aston Villa (h)	19 Derby (a)
26 Sheff Wed (a)	26 Derby (h)	26 Everton (a)	26 Coventry (h)	26 Charlton (a)	26 Charlton (a)	26 Aston Villa (a)	26 Blackburn (h)	26 Tottenham (a)	27 Wimbledon (h)
Oct 3 Newcastle (h)	3 Coventry (a)	3 West Ham (h)	3 Nottm Forest (a)	3 Charlton (h)	3 Aston Villa (h)	3 Tottenham (h)	3 Wimbledon (a)	3 Leicester (h)	3 Leeds (a)
17 Southampton (h)	17 Middlesbrough (a)	17 Middlesbrough (a)	17 Chelsea (a)	17 Chelsea (h)	17 Sheff Wed (h)	17 Liverpool (a)	17 Liverpool (h)	17 Nottm Forest (h)	19 Tottenham (h)
25 Blackburn (a)	24 Leicester (h)	25 Arsenal (h)	24 West Ham (h)	31 Aston Villa (h)	31 Southampton (a)	24 Man Utd (h)	24 Sheff Wed (a)	24 Chelsea (h)	24 Aston Villa (a)
31 Coventry (a)	31 Chelsea (a)	31 Wimbledon (a)	Nov 2 Spurs (a)	Nov 7 West Ham (a)	31 Arsenal (h)	31 Leeds (h)	31 Man Utd (h)	31 Derby (a)	31 Charlton (h)
Nov 7 Everton (h)	7 Tottenham (h)	7 Coventry (h)	7 Leicester (h)	7 Leicester (h)	Nov 7 Blackburn (a)	Nov 7 Arsenal (a)	Nov 7 Arsenal (a)	Nov 7 Arsenal (a)	Nov 7 Charlton (h)
14 Tottenham (h)	14 Southampton (a)	14 Man Utd (a)	14 Middlesbrough (h)	21 Leicester (a)	15 Everton (h)	15 Nottm Forest (a)	15 Coventry (a)	14 Liverpool (a)	14 West Ham (a)
21 Wimbledon (a)	21 Liverpool (h)	21 Liverpool (h)	21 Leeds (a)	28 Sheff Wed (h)	21 Middlesbrough (a)	22 West Ham (a)	22 Newcastle (h)	21 Charlton (h)	21 Chelsea (a)
28 Middlesbrough (h)	28 Nottm Forest (a)	28 Liverpool (a)	28 Everton (h)	Dec 5 Everton (a)	28 Leicester (h)	28 Southampton (a)	28 Charlton (a)	28 Man Utd (a)	28 Coventry (h)
Dec 5 Derby (a)	5 Man Utd (h)	5 Charlton (h)	Dec 5 Blackburn (a)	12 Derby (a)	Dec 5 Wimbledon (a)	Dec 5 Arsenal (h)	Dec 5 Chelsea (h)	Dec 5 West Ham (h)	Dec 5 Southampton (h)
12 Aston Villa (a)	12 Newcastle (h)	12 Newcastle (h)	12 Sheff Wed (a)	16 Man Utd (a)	14 Leeds (a)	12 Chelsea (h)	12 Southampton (h)	14 Coventry (h)	12 Nottm Forest (h)
20 Leeds (h)	21 Charlton (a)	19 Nottm Forest (a)	21 Aston Villa (h)	19 Tottenham (h)	19 Derby (h)	19 Coventry (a)	19 West Ham (a)	19 Arsenal (a)	19 Newcastle (a)
26 West Ham (h)	26 Blackburn (a)	26 Aston Villa (h)	26 Wimbledon (a)	26 Southampton (a)	26 Tottenham (h)	26 Everton (a)	26 Derby (h)	26 Newcastle (a)	26 Sheff Wed (a)
28 Charlton (a)	28 Sheff Wed (h)	28 Leicester (a)	28 Arsenal (h)	28 Man Utd (h)	28 Middlesbrough (h)	28 Middlesbrough (h)	28 Tottenham (h)	28 Tottenham (a)	28 Blackburn (h)
Jan 9 Liverpool (h)	9 Middlesbrough (a)	Jan 9 Leeds (h)	Jan 9 Southampton (a)	Jan 9 Newcastle (a)	Jan 9 Nottm Forest (h)	Jan 9 Wimbledon (a)	Jan 9 Leicester (h)	Jan 9 Blackburn (a)	Jan 9 Everton (a)
16 Nottm Forest (a)	16 Everton (h)	16 Derby (a)	16 Newcastle (h)	16 Coventry (h)	16 Chelsea (a)	16 Blackburn (h)	16 Aston Villa (a)	16 Middlesbrough (h)	16 Man Utd (h)
30 Chelsea (a)	30 Tottenham (h)	30 Tottenham (h)	30 Man Utd (a)	30 Arsenal (a)	30 Liverpool (a)	30 Southampton (a)	30 Nottm Forest (h)	30 Southampton (a)	30 Middlesbrough (a)
Feb 6 West Ham (a)	6 Blackburn (h)	6 Aston Villa (a)	Feb 6 Wimbledon (h)	Feb 6 Southampton (h)	Feb 6 Tottenham (a)	Feb 6 Everton (h)	Feb 6 Derby (a)	Feb 6 Newcastle (h)	Feb 6 Sheff Wed (h)
13 Man Utd (a)	13 Leeds (h)	13 Chelsea (a)	13 Liverpool (h)	13 Blackburn (h)	13 Newcastle (a)	13 Leicester (a)	13 Middlesbrough (h)	13 Aston Villa (a)	13 Derby (h)
20 Leicester (h)	20 Wimbledon (a)	20 Sheff Wed (h)	20 Derby (a)	20 Nottm Forest (a)	20 Tottenham (h)	20 Arsenal (h)	20 Charlton (h)	20 Everton (a)	20 Arsenal (a)
27 Newcastle (a)	27 Coventry (h)	27 West Ham (a)	27 Nottm Forest (h)	27 Liverpool (h)	27 Aston Villa (a)	27 Arsenal (a)	27 Tottenham (a)	27 Liverpool (h)	27 Leeds (h)
6 Sheff Wed (h)	6 Derby (a)	6 Everton (h)	6 Coventry (a)	Mar 6 Blackburn (a)	Mar 6 Charlton (a)	Mar 6 Aston Villa (h)	Mar 6 Wimbledon (h)	Mar 6 Blackburn (a)	Mar 6 Wimbledon (a)
13 Everton (a)	13 Tottenham (a)	13 Coventry (a)	13 Leicester (a)	13 West Ham (h)	13 Blackburn (h)	13 Liverpool (h)	13 Arsenal (h)	13 Everton (h)	13 Charlton (h)
20 Coventry (h)	20 Chelsea (h)	20 Wimbledon (h)	20 Tottenham (h)	20 Aston Villa (a)	20 Arsenal (a)	20 Arsenal (a)	20 Man Utd (a)	20 Man Utd (a)	20 Derby (h)
Apr 3 Southampton (a)	Apr 3 West Ham (h)	Apr 3 Middlesbrough (h)	Apr 3 Chelsea (h)	Apr 3 Charlton (a)	Apr 3 Sheff Wed (a)	Apr 3 Tottenham (h)	Apr 3 Liverpool (h)	Apr 3 Nottm Forest (h)	Apr 3 Tottenham (h)
5 Blackburn (h)	5 Leicester (a)	5 Arsenal (a)	5 West Ham (a)	5 Leeds (h)	5 Southampton (h)	5 Man Utd (a)	5 Man Utd (a)	5 Chelsea (a)	5 Aston Villa (h)
10 Tottenham (a)	10 Southampton (h)	10 Man Utd (h)	10 Middlesbrough (a)	10 Wimbledon (a)	10 Everton (a)	10 Nottm Forest (h)	10 Nottm Forest (h)	10 Liverpool (h)	10 West Ham (h)
17 Wimbledon (h)	17 Liverpool (a)	17 Southampton (a)	17 Leeds (h)	17 Leicester (h)	17 Blackburn (h)	17 Leicester (h)	17 Southampton (h)	17 Chelsea (a)	17 Chelsea (a)
24 Middlesbrough (a)	24 Nottm Forest (h)	24 Liverpool (h)	24 Everton (a)	24 Sheff Wed (a)	24 Leicester (a)	24 Blackburn (h)	24 Charlton (a)	24 Man Utd (h)	24 Coventry (h)
May 1 Derby (h)	1 Man Utd (h)	1 Charlton (a)	May 1 Blackburn (h)	May 1 Everton (h)	May 1 Wimbledon (h)	May 1 Charlton (h)	May 1 Arsenal (a)	May 1 West Ham (h)	May 1 Southampton (h)
8 Leeds (a)	8 Charlton (h)	8 Nottm Forest (h)	8 Aston Villa (a)	8 Tottenham (a)	8 Tottenham (h)	8 Derby (a)	8 Coventry (h)	8 West Ham (h)	8 Arsenal (h)
16 Aston Villa (h)	16 Arsenal (a)	16 Newcastle (a)	16 Sheff Wed (h)	16 Derby (h)	16 Leicester (h)	16 Leeds (h)	16 Chelsea (a)	16 Southampton (a)	16 Coventry (a)

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Cumani proves himself a top-class marksman

It is probably the oldest story in racing, and probably the truest story in all the horsey sports. The beaten jockey, harangued by his mount's disgusted and disappointed owner for his failure to win, replies: "I couldn't go without the horse, my lord." That's a fact.

Lester Piggott, Frankie Dettori and Olivier Peslier combined could not get the horse which accompanies me on this page to win the Derby. Mark Todd could not win Badminton with him. Isabel Werth would not win the Olympic dressage gold medal on him. All would make the horse do his best, and do far better than would his usual jockey. But his best would not be good enough. I couldn't go without the horse, my lord.

Look down a list of the racehorse trainers of Britain. They can be divided into two classes: those that have won the Derby, and those who believe they certainly would win the Derby if anyone was smart enough to send them a horse that was good enough.

So there I was on Newmarket Heath for first lot, and at last and for once a real Newmarket June morning, a skylark-ringing sky and a horse good enough to win the Derby printing his proud hooves in the receiving earth before me. High-Rise: he won the Derby at Epsom three weeks ago and heads for the Irish Derby at the Curragh next week. High-Rise, doing his first piece of sharp work since his victory in the Derby.

A four and a three, as Luca Cumani, his trainer, calls it, in the private language that every yard — each one a small, private civilisation — in every horsey discipline acquires for itself over the years. That is to say, four furlongs across The Dip, a graceful undulation on the Heath on the Racecourse Side, a left-handed curve and three more up the rise to where the trainer and I stood.

Justin Harris, his work rider, crouched in the irons, the horse opening his shoulders and showing us his strength. A young animal growing into his full strength and revelling in it: revelling in his strength in the June sunshine. God's in his heaven, and all that.

spectator: a trainer spends too much time worrying. There is an agreeable gloominess about Cumani: an understanding that in racing, in life, fate is always waiting behind the door with a lump of lead piping. It is easier on the nerves, this gloom, than to take the grand-opera ride of triumph and disaster that Italians are supposed to relish. Easing a horse down, letting him be relaxed and comfortable in himself. Building a horse up, trained to the hour to an explosive peak of achievement. That, simply enough, is how to train a racehorse. You build these patterns of crest and trough into a horse's career, a horse's year, a horse's day.

High-Rise has been eased down after the Derby, to recover his strength and his sang-froid, to swank about his achievement. Horses may not know much about betting, but they know when they have put another horse in his place all right. After all, that is what horses do all the time: High-Rise put himself first in the dominance hierarchy that afternoon at Epsom and he liked the taste of it.

"There is strength in his work," Cumani said. "Strength in everything he does. But a calmness within that strength. There is nothing frantic about him."

"Something pretty frantic about the trainer when the horse was coming round Tattenham Corner," Cilla Backhouse, his racing secretary, said, not untarty. "That



is classified information." But Cumani had given up the race as lost with his horse third from last going round the aforementioned, fate-setting corner, had hoped for a place at the horse's surge forward. Then for a moment, believed he could win. Realised he would just about hold on for second.

And then that second surge. "It was ability that took him into second place, and character that took him to the front." Both these matters are the trainer's concern. You can't go without the horse.

The horse started at 20-1, but was not unfancied inside

Cumani's yard. "At least, a lot of my staff are a lot richer than they were." Had the horse been blazing a trail across the Heath in the week before the race? "No. But he was ... happy." Which says it all, really. Cumani has known for a fact that he could train a Derby winner since 1988, when he pulled off the trick with Kahyasi. As a reward, the Aga Khan, the horse's owner, did what every owner mutters about with every defeat. He took his bloody horses elsewhere.

This was because of a row with the Jockey Club over an Aga Khan horse not even trained by Cumani. Alyssa won the Oaks in 1989, but was retrospectively disqualified when she tested positive for a prohibited substance, a derivative of camphor. The Aga Khan was furious, and took all his horses away from that institution's jurisdiction.

That is to say, Britain. Cumani was caught in the crossfire. Innocent bystander, slugged by the man with the lead piping. Lost his best horses and his richest, believed most ambitious owner. Was at once demoted from the trainers' superleague to a become a second-division promotion hopeful. I couldn't go without the horse, my lord.

Which left Cumani making the best out of the horse he had — which is precisely what the best horsey people do everywhere. The Italianate gloom had prepared him for life's chunks of lead piping.

I asked Cumani whether he

would cheer for England or Italy at the World Cup. Hard one. This is Cumani's personal halfway point: he has now lived longer in England than he has in Italy. He hoped the two teams would not meet. Still, with two fancied runners in the race, he looks like getting a run for his money.

After a while, the Aga Khan decided that the Jockey Club had suffered enough, or that English racing was too succulent a dish to turn away forever. He came back.

And Cumani won his second Derby — but for another owner. So it goes. Give a top-class marksman top-class ammunition and he tends to hit the target. Work done.

A green paddock behind the main yard and the long barns of Bedford Lodge, and the horses untacked, cooling off, and all having a good roll: on their backs, four legs in the air, squirming luxuriously and lurching to their feet — the only thing a thoroughbred is capable of doing without grace — like camels. A lad at each head, the horses picking at grass and feeling the sun on their backs and revelling in the righteous glaze that comes from good, hard exercise early on a sunlit morning. Bringing them up, easing them down.

And Cumani mingling with the horses: 150 of them altogether, each needing to be understood as an individual with needs and an agenda of his own. The trainer's art: a feat of memory, a card-index brain and soul-deep understanding.

A considerable trainer, this, and a considerable person. To build yourself up to superleague status, and to get knocked down through no fault of your own, and then to do it all again: to lose, and start again at your beginnings, and never breathe a word about your loss. All a beleaguered trainer needs is the right horse, because you can't go without the horse. But then all a good horse needs is the right trainer: one who understands the individual horse's rhythm of crests and troughs. Simplest thing in the world.

And the most complicated of course.



Cumani has taken racing's knocks and bounced back in style, of which he has plenty

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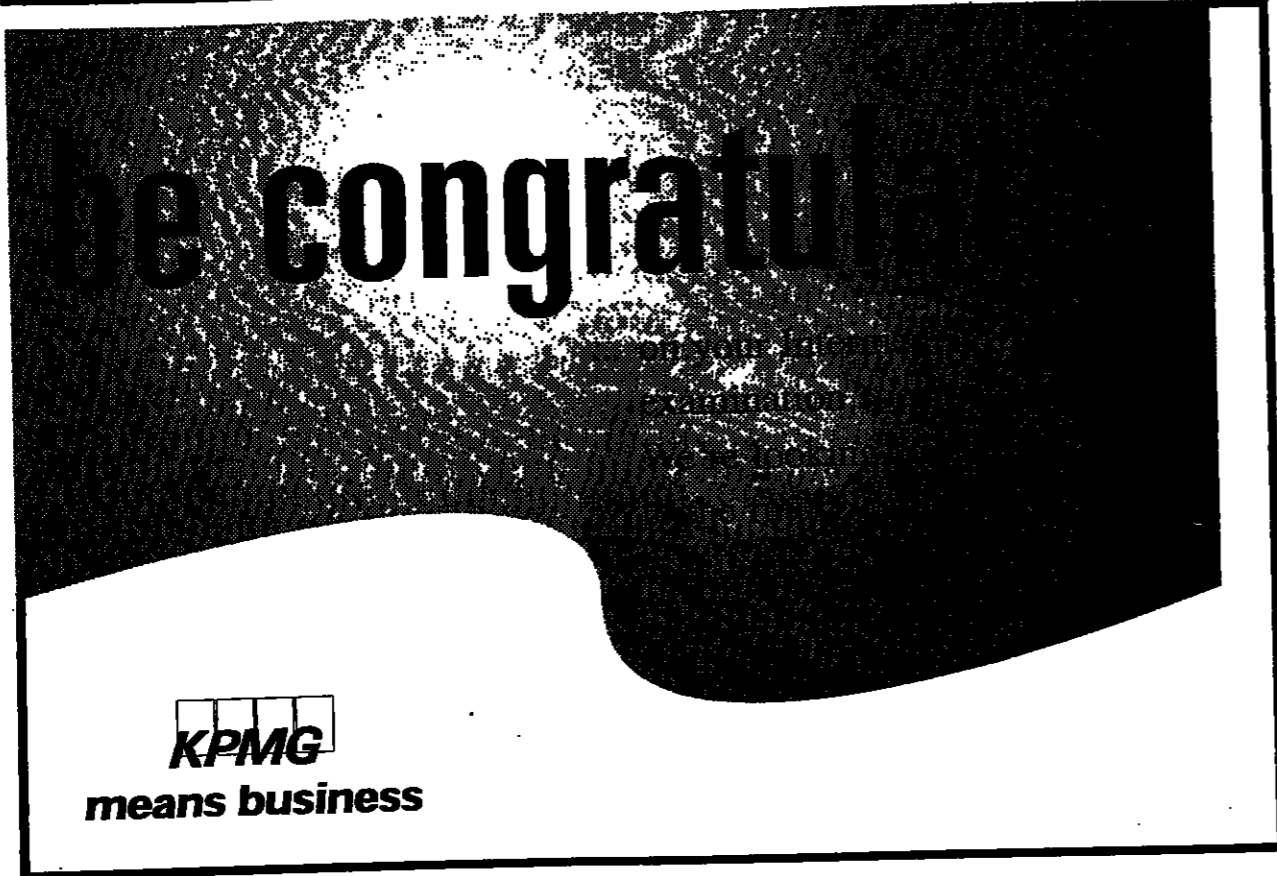
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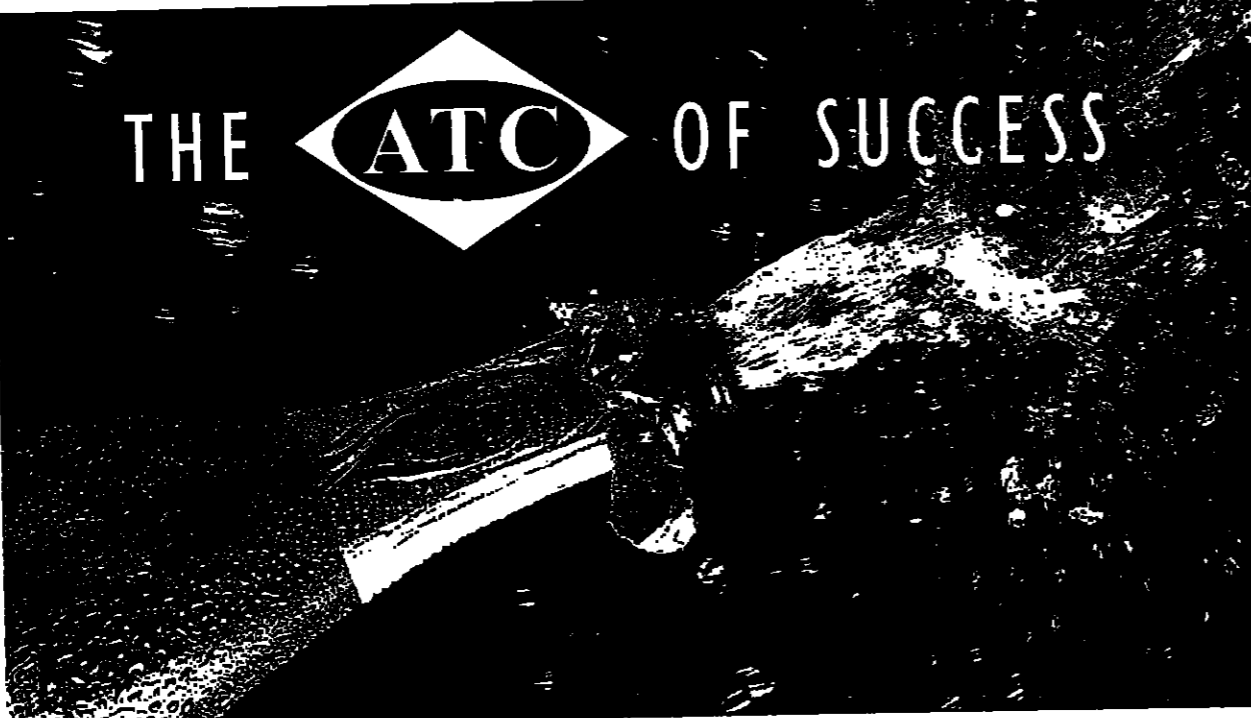
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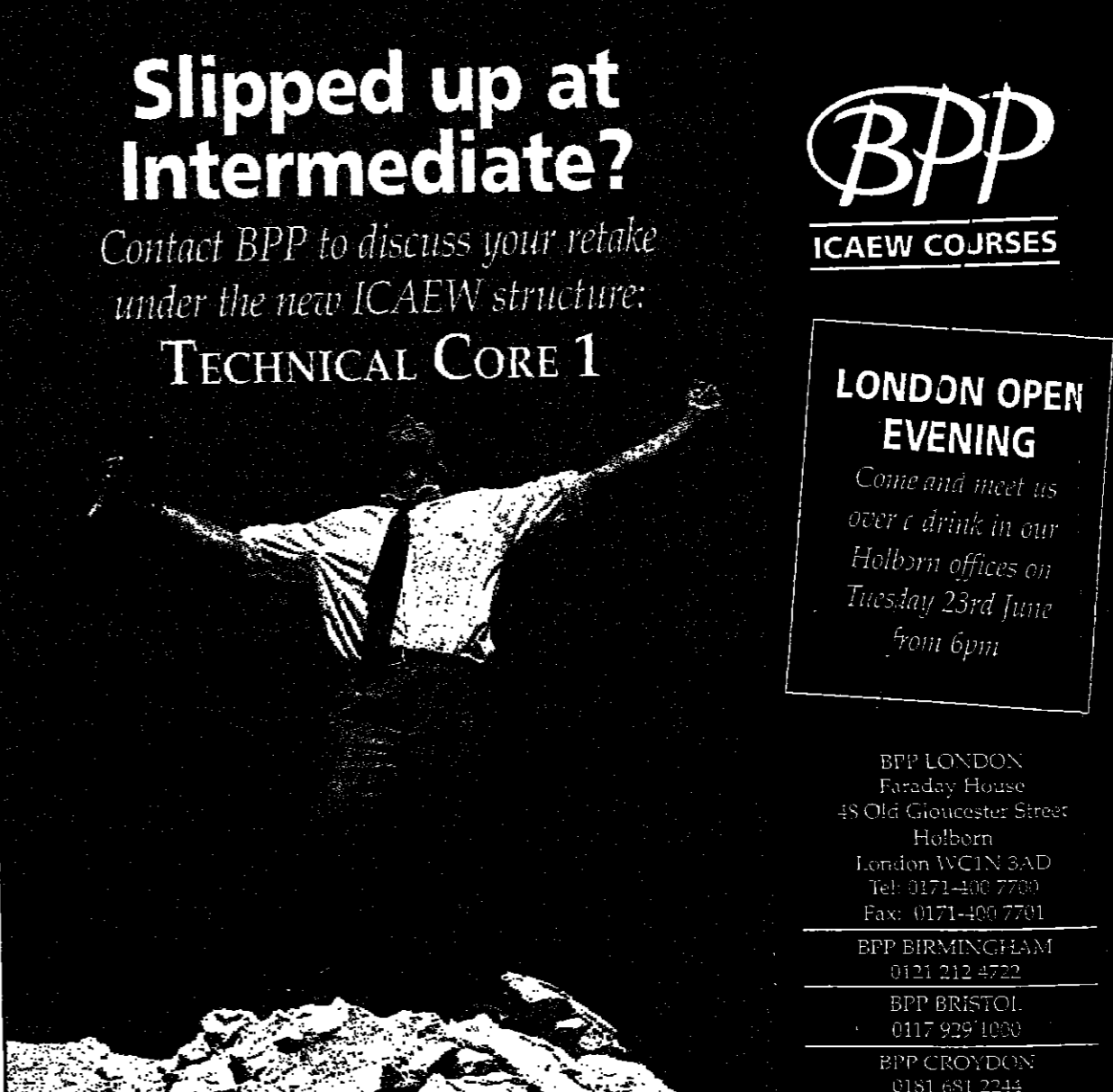
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, share price, and other financial metrics. Includes sections for various fund categories like Equity, Bond, and Money Market.

INVESTORS CHRONICLE logo and text: 'INVESTORS CHRONICLE' and 'INVESTORS CHRONICLE if you're so inclined.'

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, possibly a page number or additional page indicator.



FAST CASH 57

Counting the cost of having to send money in a hurry

WEEKEND MONEY

BITING DEEP 63

Why some personal pensions cost more than others



Racing not just the sport of kings

Clare Stewart explains how enthusiasts can fulfil dreams of entering winner's enclosure

Ladbroke estimates that about £45 million was bet on the recent Derby Day races at high street betting offices...

For enthusiasts the dream is not just to clean up on the Grand National or Derby but of walking into the winners' enclosure at Ascot or Aintree...

Owning a horse does not necessarily require a seven-figure bank balance. Jimmy George, marketing manager for Tattersalls, the bloodstock auctioneer...

I am interested in owning a horse, but where do I start?

Before you part with any money find out what is involved. Talk to other owners, trainers and agents...

First decisions - Flat or National Hunt racing?

Do you want to own a horse that races on the flat or over jumps? A key influence is that more money can be won in Flat racing than over jumps...

Do I need to take any specialist advice before buying?

A key role is played by trainers and bloodstock agents. Both can advise on which horses to buy. An agent will usually charge 5 per cent of the purchase price as commission...

How much is it going to cost to buy a racehorse?

The BHB quotes an average purchase price as between 7,000 and 8,000 guineas. (a guinea is £1.05) but much will depend on the horse you buy...

But what about the cost of training the horse?

Average annual training costs are £12,000 to £15,000 but will vary according to the trainer chosen. The cost includes training fees, insurance, vets' fees, entry fees to races and transport costs to and from races.

So how do you go about buying a racehorse?

You can buy privately, from another owner or trainer for example, or through claiming and selling races, in which all the runners are for sale. The third option is through sales held by bloodstock auction houses...

What are the options for buying a racehorse?

The simplest form is sole ownership. The horse is registered in your name, you choose your own racing colours, pay all the bills and pocket all the winnings after paying the trainer and jockey...



Cherry-picked: Bruce Wyatt admires Jarrayan, a three-year-old chestnut filly his syndicate has in training at the Newmarket yard of Stuart Williams, right

ers. It is also possible to set up a leasing agreement, even for a single race.

Where do I find out about joining an owners' club?

As an alternative to setting up an owners' club with friends or colleagues, the BHB has details of multiple ownership groups and schemes offered. For example, the Martin Pipe Racing Club, one of the most successful, has 200 members and charges a one-off registration fee of £50 and a £250 annual subscription.

The British Horseracing Board can be contacted on 0171-396 0011. The next BHB owners seminar is September 28-29 in Newmarket and costs £225 plus VAT. A video guide on ownership is available for £5 by calling 01753 897211.

Thrill of ownership worth every penny

Bruce Wyatt lives in Stratford-upon-Avon but tries to get to Newmarket in Suffolk at least once a week to see his horse on the gallops. He also goes to the races around once a fortnight...

Mr Wyatt is a member of the Cherry Pickers Syndicate run by Stuart Williams, a trainer, from his yard in Newmarket. Set up two years ago, it has 100 members and two horses in training.

The syndicate charges £500 a year as a one-off fee. But Mr Wyatt also owns a half share in a two-year-old horse in training with Mr Williams. This is a greater financial commitment. The horse cost him £10,000 and he pays half the training costs. Dreaming of winning the Derby is

something all owners and trainers do, but for Mr Wyatt the main enjoyment is the thrill of involvement with the sport.

For those who simply join the Cherry Pickers syndicate, the £500 annual fee goes towards the purchase of two horses every year. A year later these are sold at the October sales and the proceeds, with any prizemoney won, are divided equally among syndicate members. Last year each received £230.

Syndicate members come from all walks of life, says Mr Williams, and membership is also shared among friends. For example, a group of five postmen have clubbed together to take one £500 stake. Membership offers opportunities to visit the Newmarket

yard to see the horses. There is also a monthly newsletter and entry to race ticket draws. A telephone information line gives details of where the horses are running. The aim is to give people a bit of fun, says Mr Williams, who has 32 horses in training for other owners in his yard, including Cocker Un, which has won more than £120,000 in prizemoney.

Another syndicate member is Marion Southcott who with her husband Ian runs Thurston House Stud, near Newmarket, breeding racehorses. While already involved in racing, Mrs Southcott says she has been surprised at the interest shown by friends outside the industry.

CLARE STEWART

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Graph showing 66.7% growth in the last 18 months. Includes a list of companies like BMW, Nestlé, Bayer, Heineken, and KLM.

Form for requesting more information about the Legal & General European Index-Tracking PEP, including fields for name, address, and phone number.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Capi but p' and 'How'.

Patrick Collinson has advice for parents whose children will soon be heading for Europe

Counting the cost of wiring cash in a hurry

Each year Britons send millions of pounds abroad in cash to students or relatives — and millions is stolen in the post. Wiring money abroad instead costs more but is much more secure, and the money can be transferred in a matter of minutes.

Two companies, Western Union and MoneyGram, dominate the market for immediate cash sending, and operate a network of offices around the world.

But if a stricken backpacker son or daughter can wait one to two days, a transfer can be arranged by any of the UK high street banks to be paid out as cash in a foreign bank on production of suitable identification.

Spain is the biggest destination for emergency cash from Britain, according to Western Union. Tourists and young travellers make up the biggest group of people needing urgent cash, but they are closely followed by the large number of people working in the UK who regularly send money to family members back home.

Western Union says Nigeria and Jamaica are the second and third most popular destinations for money sent from the UK, with the average amount sent around £350.

More than 30,000 England fans are currently travelling between the World Cup sites of Marseilles, Toulouse and Lens, and Western Union says it expects many to need urgent financial assistance. Next month also sees the traditional surge of backpackers streaming off to the Continent and further afield as universities shut for the long summer vacation.

In anticipation of their plaintive calls for cash, *Weekend Money* asked the banks and the money transfer providers how much it would cost to send £500 to France, and how many francs the recipients would pick up after all charges.

As the table (above) shows, the initial fee is not the only consideration in choosing which service to use. As important is the exchange rate

used by the money sender, which can vary quite widely.

People should also consider the way in which the money is going to be picked up. The banks can generally arrange for the cash to be picked up by almost any bank in Europe or the United States, and by most major banks elsewhere in the world.

Western Union operates a chain of 43,000 outlets around the world where cash can be collected, while transfers can be made through any branch of Thomas Cook to 20,000 destinations worldwide in a link-up with MoneyGram.

Western Union and MoneyGram both claim there are no hidden costs, with all the costs picked up by the sender. The high street banks admit when they transfer money to a foreign bank, that bank will make a charge locally when the money is collected.

Lloyds Bank says that for France the typical charge is around 150 francs, while NatWest says the typical charge is closer to 130 francs. For the purposes of comparison, our table shows local charges at 150 francs.

Banks in far-flung parts of the globe are likely to take longer and charge more. Halifax said: "The usual timescale for funds to arrive is three to five working days. However, this depends on external influences such as time zone differences and the sophistication of other countries' banking systems."

Our table summarises the costs for sending money urgently. If speed is not essential, the banks offer other cheaper payment systems. For example, Lloyds Bank's cheapest electronic method is its international Moneymover service, which takes six days and costs around half of the level of the urgent service.

Finally, beware of money laundering rules. Thomas Cook says it will not accept cash transfer instructions over the telephone using credit cards, while Western Union demands higher levels of identification for sums transferred above £2,500.



Advance guard: England fans apply face paint in Marseilles — soon students will join them abroad

HOW MUCH IT COSTS TO SEND £500 TO FRANCE					
Bank/Transfer Service	Fee	Exchange Rate	Local Fee	Paid Out	Time
Western Union	£37	9.28	Zero	Fr4,642	10-15mins
Lloyds Bank	£19	9.82	Fr150	Fr4,571	Next day
Abbey National	£25	9.94	Fr150	Fr4,497	24 Hours
MoneyGram/Thomas Cook	£33	\$1.58/Fr5.62*	Zero	Fr4,300	10-15mins
NatWest	£20	9.94	Fr150	Fr4,696	24 hours

* MoneyGram converts sterling transfers into US dollars then into French francs.

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The leaders in long-term performance have a list of leading awards



- 1998
 - Best Overall Unit Trust Company - Money Management
 - UK & Europe Fund Manager of the Year - Money Management
 - Funds For The Future (UK, Europe) - Moneywise
 - Funds For The Future (IT, International Capital Growth) - Moneywise
 - Gold Investment Provider - FA Provider of the Year Awards
- 1997
 - Best 10 year Group Weighted Performance - Investment Intelligence
 - Best Risk Reward Fund - European - What PEP
 - 5 Year Best UK Unit Trust Manager (Smaller Group) - Standard & Poor's Micropal
 - Best International Capital Growth Investment Trust, 5 Years (Jupiter Primadona Growth) - Standard & Poor's Micropal
 - 1 Year Best Far East ex Japan Investment Trust (Taiwan Investment) - Standard & Poor's Micropal
- 1996
 - Small Unit Trust Group of the Year - Investment Adviser
 - Large Investment Trust Group of the Year - Investment Adviser
 - Best Overall Trust - Primadona - Investment Trusts
 - UK and Europe Fund Manager of the Year - Money Management
 - Fund Management Group of the Year (1st) - What Investment
 - Best Provider - Unit Trust Fund - Savings Market / Investment Intelligence
 - 1 Year UK Unit Trust Europe Sector (1st) - European - Micropal
 - 1 Year UK Unit Trust UK EQ Income Sector (1st) - Income - Micropal
 - 5 Year UK Unit Trust UK EQ Income Sector (1st) - Income - Micropal
 - 4 Star Investment Trust Company - Financial Adviser / FFA Service Awards
 - Five Star Unit Trust Company - Financial Adviser / IFAA Service Awards
- 1995
 - Best UK Growth Unit Trust - Investment Adviser
 - UK and Europe Fund Manager of the Year - Money Management
 - Best UK Equity Income Unit Trust - Investment Adviser
 - Best UK Unit Trust - Money Management
 - Best UK Equity Trust - UK Growth - Money Observer
 - Best UK Equity Income Trust - Income - Money Observer
 - 1 Year UK Unit Trusts UK EQ Income Sector (1st) - Income - Micropal
 - 5 Years UK Unit Trusts UK EQ Income Sector (1st) - Income - Micropal
 - 1 Year UK Unit Trusts UK EQ Income Sector (1st) - UK Growth - Micropal

wards are a gratifying recognition of Jupiter's achievements as an investment house.

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Management Group

Management Group	1yr	2yrs	3yrs	4yrs	5yrs	6yrs	7yrs	8yrs	9yrs	10yrs
JUPITER	11	4	2	3	1	1	1	2	2	1
Fidelity	73	75	36	53	28	10	22	54	28	11
M&G	19	46	72	49	36	36	31	31	40	36
Mercury	87	95	80	63	60	44	41	39	34	28
Perpetual	103	82	69	62	37	9	14	11	7	5
Schroder	128	122	113	105	101	57	68	74	41	46

Extracts from Investment Intelligence - Group Weighted Performance Tables of all unit trust management groups: offer to bid, net income reinvested, cumulative to 1.6.98.

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Hard times: One Tokyo restaurant is doing its bit for Japan's hard currency crisis by charging five dollars for a bowl of noodles rather than yen

Investors seek refuge from Far East turmoil

The ailing economies of Japan and South-East Asia have been back in the headlines again, rattling stock markets worldwide and sparking renewed worries for investors. This week the Prime Minister described the Asian crisis as the greatest threat to the world economy for two decades.

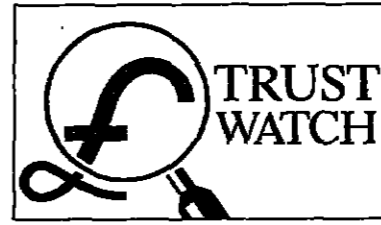
The focus most recently has been Japan, the world's second-largest economy. After many months of concern about the economy and its financial institutions, last week's GDP figures showing a second successive quarter of economic contraction meant that the recession became official.

The yen has come under renewed pressure against the US dollar, falling to an eight-year low before the US intervened to support it on Wednesday. The slide of the Japanese currency has prompted worries that China will be forced to devalue its currency, which is pegged to the US dollar. "The yen is in meltdown mode as a result of the dire economic fundamentals in Japan," said David Brown, chief economist at Bear Stearns.

Fund managers with considerable exposure to Japan and the Far East may be keeping a brave face while talking about selective buying opportunities, but it is clear that investors, both private and institutional, are continuing to switch out of funds exposed to the volatile markets.

Figures from the Association of Unit Trusts (Autif) show that £168 million was switched out of Japanese funds in April, compared with £101 million for April 1997. Across all Far Eastern

As Japan moves into recession, Clare Stewart looks at what fund managers make of the Asian economic crisis



The worst was over. "Now," says Mr Urwin, "there is a much stronger perception that the region is in recession and that we could be here for some time."

Jeremy Hill, a director of Schroder Investment Management, said: "We are long-term investors in the region, so are not swayed by day-to-day events. We are not changing our strategy. We are committed to the Japanese market. It has been going down for the best part of ten years so we are used to it."

Mark Coombs, managing director of ANZ Emerging Markets Fund Management, which recently launched its Asian Recovery Fund, said: "We expected to see volatility so there has been no change in our approach. We are keeping an eye on Japan, as its economy drives a number of other Asian economies. There is worse to come in certain sectors across Asia."

For investors prepared to sit tight during the rollercoaster ride, there are some encouraging signs. Roger Cornick, managing director of Perpetual, points to the "hundreds of trillions of yen on deposit in the equivalent of the Post Office, but

earning less than 1 per cent," which would have a significant impact if released into the market.

Even with the uncertainty surrounding the Far Eastern markets, there has not been a wholesale movement out of funds by Perpetual investors. "People are more attuned to stock market investment," says Mr Cornick. "You need to take a three- to five-year view, possibly longer for some of these economies."

The reaction from investors in Fidelity's range of funds has been mixed, says John Ross, portfolio strategist at Fidelity Investments, but funds with exposure to the Asian countries such as Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore are perhaps hardest hit.

There may be some more positive news from Japan later in the summer as the package of measures to stimulate economic growth takes effect, says Mr Ross. If the impact is sustainable it could help the yen to stabilise and take the pressure off currencies in South-East Asia.

For investors who still have money in Far East funds, the advice from James Higgins, at Chamberlain de Broe, the independent financial adviser, is to decide on your investment timescale. "If you want to take a ten-year view for example, sit tight especially if you have only put money in relatively recently and ridden the curve down," he says.

"If you are taking a one-year view, then you should be looking for opportunities to dump some stock at higher prices on rallies," says Christopher Tracey, global strategist at Flemings.

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Sleeping Dragon awakes

Intervention this week by the US to prop up the plummeting yen will have brought heart to anyone with money invested in South-East Asia.

The Federal Reserve hopes that by spending an estimated \$2 billion supporting the Japanese currency, it can prevent the financial crisis in the region from spiralling out of control. Most UK investors in Far East funds are sitting on large losses: an investment of £1,000 a year ago in a Far East (including Japan) unit trust is worth, on average, little more than £700 today.

But someone's pain can be another's gain. Investors looking to move their money to the region can now pick up bargains because in 1997 five of the stock markets lost 60 per cent of their value.

One country promising double-digit rates of growth over the next few years is China. The Sleeping Dragon is beginning to stir, and if Japan fails to put right the deep structural problems in its economy, it could assume both political and economic leadership in the region.

At present, private investors have to search hard for vehicles to invest in mainland China. Many funds have an exposure to Hong Kong, but there are few that look beyond this. An exception is AIB Govett's Greater China unit trust, one of the top performers in its sector.

Valued at just \$11 million (£6.6 million), the fund puts much of its money into Red Chip stocks. Although listed on the Hong Kong Exchange, these are subsidiaries of mainland Chinese companies. The fund also invests directly in Chinese stocks on the Shanghai and Shenzhen markets. Christian Dangerfield, its manager, says he is currently holding about 20 per cent of the portfolio in cash, but aims to reinvest this in the next month or two. While he is not wholly convinced that the yen will stop falling, he does believe the decline will slow down.

Mr Dangerfield said: "This has been a relatively poor year for China. Growth in GDP is below the trend, and is extremely unlikely to be any more than 6 to 7 per cent. But next year and in 2000, it should be back on the ten-year trend of 9-10 per cent." This is particularly important because Asian markets reflect the momentum of growth, rather than valuations.

The direction of the yen will be critical to the health of China. The Fed's intervention was triggered in part by a threat from Beijing to devalue its own currency, the yuan.

However, Victor Chu, the chairman of the Far Eastern Investment Group, believes this is unlikely because it would set back the country's economic and social reform programme.

RICHARD MILES

*Source: Micropal, offer to bid, income taken, for period 1/7/1986 to 1/5/98 (equivalent 5 year figure +86%, 1/5/93 to 1/5/98). **Source: Micropal, all figures offer to bid, gross income reinvested, for periods ending 1/5/98. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The price of units and the income from them is not guaranteed and can fall as well as rise. The Equity Income Trust has been available as a PEP since May 1993. Full written terms and conditions are available on request. For your security all calls are recorded. Royal & Sun Alliance Unit Trust Management Limited, registered in England, no 2170242, is a member of the Royal & Sun Alliance Life & Pensions Marketing Group. Registered Office 1 Bartholomew Lane, London, EC2N 2AB. Members of the Royal & Sun Alliance Life & Pensions Marketing Group are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, solely for life assurance, pensions and unit trust business, and by IMRO.

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Lloyds launches tourist rate site

Holidaymakers can now access currency information on the world's most popular destinations via the Internet. Lloyds Bank has launched a Travel Internet site that includes an online currency buy/sell calculator with daily updated exchange rates, customs information and bank opening times, plus advice on debt and using credit cards abroad. The website can be accessed at www.lloydsbank.co.uk/travel

Hogg Robinson Financial Services has published its 1998 Guide to UK Social Security Contributions and Benefits. The book provides a summary of the main benefits paid by both the State and the employer to which employees are entitled. The guide lists the full range of benefits payable from the national insurance fund and by employers, gives full tax tables (income tax, VAT, stamp duty) with rates and allowances, and discusses levels for personal pension provision. The guide is priced at £25 and is available by calling 0118-939 5412 (Monday to Friday).

Tackling Self-Assessment. Published by Which? Books.

guides taxpayers through the process of filling in a tax return. The book reveals how to use the tax rules to your advantage and gives independent advice on employment, pensions, investments, property and inheritance. It also covers tax for older people and explains how your marital status will affect the way you are taxed. The book costs £3.99 and is available from bookshops.

First Time Investor. The private investor with background knowledge about the UK stock market, equities and bonds. The book written by Debbie Harrison, answers vital questions for new investors such as: How do I find the right investment adviser, how do I set appropriate investment goals, which are the right products for me, and what rights do I have as a shareholder? Whatever the investment - whether a pension scheme, shares or a mortgage - it advises any investor to become wise before, rather than after, the event. The book will be available from bookshops later this month, priced £19.99.

LIZANNE ROSE

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

Table with columns: Investment (£), Company, Standard Rate (%). Lists various income bond products and their rates.

Source: Chambers of Bond 0171-493 7800. Net miss. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

Table with columns: Account, Notice of term, Deposit, Rate, Interest paid. Lists various savings accounts and their terms.

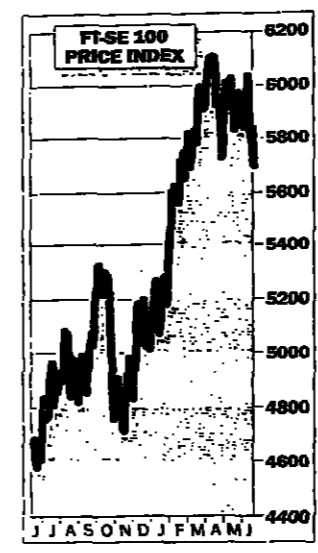
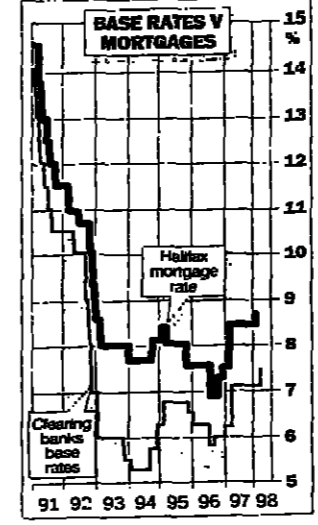
CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

Table with columns: Card type, Interest per month, APR%, Fee per annum. Lists various credit cards and their terms.

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

Table with columns: Lender, APR, Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance, no insurance. Lists various personal loan offers.

PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING. Source: Money Facts, The Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01603 476747)



NATIONAL SAVINGS

Table with columns: Gross rate, At tax rates, Min/maximum investment, Notice, Contact. Lists various national savings products.

PENSION ANNUITIES

Table with columns: Single Life (level ann), Joint Life (level ann), Single Life (flexi ann), Joint Life (flexi ann). Lists pension annuity options.

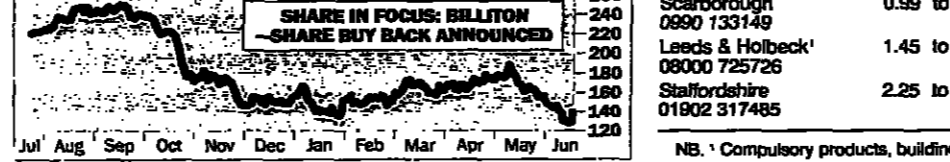
Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

PIBS

Table with columns: Fixed Rate, Gross coupon, Buying price, Gross yield, Issue price, Minimum purchase amount. Lists PIBS products.

PERPETUAL SUBORDINATED BONDS

Table with columns: Lender, Gross coupon, Buying price, Gross yield, Issue price, Minimum purchase amount. Lists perpetual subordinated bonds.



LARGER LENDERS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Lists larger lender offers.

LARGER LOANS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Lists larger loan offers.

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Lists first-time buyer offers.

Advertisement for 'Up to 7.85% gross p.a. variable' with contact information and website.

UNIT-LINKED INVESTMENTS

Large table listing various unit-linked investment products, including AGON LIFE ASSURANCE, BLACK HORSE LIFE, CANVIA LIFE, and many others.

Handwritten text: '0171 493 7800'

Invest On-line is a trading name of Royal & SunAlliance Ltd... The value of units... "The scheme from then, can go down as well as up..."

Patrick Collinson says young people face misery in retirement if they do not buy a pension early

How the 'can't save won't save' generation will suffer

A barrage of surveys and reports released last week urged people as young as 18 to start a pension if they want a secure retirement. Yet the reality for many job-hopping young people is that they can reach the age of 30 with a ragbag of pension schemes with charges biting deeply into their funds.

Even more frightening is the example given by pension adviser Jon Briggs of Chartwell Investment Management. He says it is cheap to start saving early for a pension, but the costs rise rapidly. If you want a retirement income of £10,000 but wait until the age of 30 to start a plan, the premium is £267 a month. After that the figures become grimmer and grimmer.

Despite these figures, more than half of the 18 to 25-year-olds in the UK don't pay a penny into a pension. IFA Promotion says they make up a "Can't Save, Won't Save" generation which could be starting at poverty in retirement.

So should Britain's 18-year-olds ditch nightclubs to embrace pensions instead? The evidence is clear that starting early pays off, but young people are nonetheless vulnerable to being sold a dud pension, despite strenuous efforts to clean up the industry.



Should Britain's 18-year-olds ditch nightclubs to buy a pension? The evidence is clear that starting early pays off

Avoid plans with high annual management charges and rising monthly plan charges. Charges are unavoidable, but vary enormously. The biggest catch is charges on paid-up policies, ie where somebody has stopped paying in but where the pension company continues to levy charges year in, year out.

Check past performance. The ultimate value of a pension will depend on how the money is managed on the stock market over the next 20 to 30 years. Good past performance is not a guarantee of future returns, but it helps. Performance figures can be checked in specialist magazines.

Consider taking out "waiver of premium". At little extra cost to a pension plan, this will ensure that premiums continue to be paid even if you fall ill or become unemployed, after a waiting period of about six months.

If the above checklist makes picking your own pension too daunting, visit an IFA. A consumer hotline at IFA Promotions (0117 971 1177) offers a list of IFAs in all areas plus a voucher for a free, no obligation, initial consultation.

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(b) When leg warmers come back into fashion?
(c) As soon as possible?

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Telephone No (Day) (Evening)
Date of Birth / / Smoker Non-Smoker

Handwritten number: 0550 1234



BROWN SAUCE 55

Pensioners take on the Chancellor over CGT changes

WEEKEND MONEY

INTO BATTLE 56

Winners and losers in the savings war



Nationwide voters cry 'foul'

Caroline Merrell and Anne Ashworth on members' reactions to 'guidance' as to how to vote on conversion



Charlotte Burke is angry that the Nationwide voting form is laid out in such a way as to encourage voters to back the board

With little over a month to go before the Nationwide's crucial annual meeting on July 23, discontent is growing among customers over the voting procedures.

In a poll that could determine whether building societies will continue into the next century, the Nationwide's 4.9 million members are being asked to choose whether they wish their society to become a bank, distributing £2,000 payouts or to remain its traditional mutual status.

The controversial A3-sized form, approved by the Electoral Reform Society, is divided into two. One half gives the board's recommendations, with graphics indicating where members should enter their crosses if they want the Nationwide to stay as a building society.

mer bulet and Andrew Muir, a recruitment consultant.

For extra emphasis, the board's choices are picked out in green. But, to the confusion of some, the colour is used to denote when the board recommends that votes should be cast for and against.

Many readers contacted Weekend Money to voice their objections. David Wilkins, from Eastbourne, thinks the form gives undue emphasis to the board's position.

Mr Rowling, a pensioner with £116 invested with the society, claims that the Nationwide increased its savings rates this week to coincide with the receipt of the forms. He calculates that the 0.35 per cent increase is worth just 40p a year to him: "This means that it would take

5,000 years for the extra increase to equate to a £2,000 windfall." Doug Wilson, from Ottershaw, Surrey, has a large amount saved with the Nationwide but still supports conversion. He called the form "misleading", irritated by the clear indication that members should give their backing to the board. The layout has angered even some members who believe that there are merits to both conversion and mutuality, such as Charlotte Burke, from Southwest London. She said: "I think that the form is set out in such a way as to encourage voters to back the board."

Despite the outcry, Philip Williamson, Nationwide's marketing and commercial director, defended the form. He said: "All the communications make it very clear that this year members have a choice

between conversion to a bank and continued mutuality. The board has a duty to make a recommendation to its members on this vital issue and to communicate its views clearly and the chairman's letter carries this out. The letter and voting form have been designed to make it as clear as possible to members how to vote if they support mutuality and how to vote if they support conversion."

The vote is the second time the society's mutual status has come under attack. Last year, the society beat off an attempt by the pro-conversion candidates to get on to the board to force flotation. The defeat by five-to-one of the dissident members, which included Michael Hardern, was viewed as an endorsement of the society's pro-mutual stance.

But many think the vote will be much closer this year, as 600,000 more have joined the society. Many

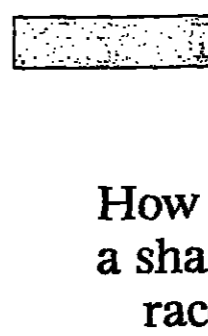
of those who have recently joined the society are carperbaggers — savers who have moved their savings to the society merely to benefit from any flotation windfall. The vote may be closer also this time because members are being asked directly whether the society should float. Last year, any conversion depended on the election of Mr Hardern, who staged a remarkable volte face about the merits of flotation just days before the vote. His eccentric behaviour contributed towards the overwhelming victory of the board.

The voting papers have to be returned to the Nationwide by July 21, with the result being released on July 23. If the board loses the vote, it will call a meeting to decide what action to take. This could include selling to a predator hoping to buy a building society, or flotation itself. It would have to have a second vote on the conversion.

INSIDE



56 Anne Ashworth on the Nationwide mutuality vote



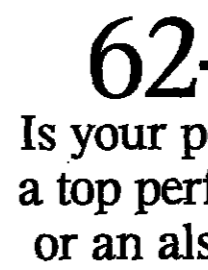
54 How to buy a share in a racehorse

HOLIDAY MONEY



57 Sending cash to a stranded family member

PENSIONS



62-63 Is your pension a top performer or an also ran?

BUSINESS NEWS PAGES 26-31

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

With-profit funds owned by Norwich Union policyholders will pay the full cost of compensating NU customers who were mis-sold personal pensions, according to an authoritative report.

Mis-selling bill for policyholders of Norwich Union

The news is certain to anger consumer groups who believe insurance companies brought the pensions mis-selling fiasco of the 1980s upon themselves and that policyholders should not have to pay to bail out their mistakes. Shareholders of NU, it has emerged, will not bear any of the cost of the mis-selling review.

The report, by Credit Lyonnais Securities Europe, comes as both life and composite insurance companies are being forced by the Treasury to speed up the process of sorting out their pensions mis-selling legacy. Many, including NU, are paying the price of persuading people in employers' pension schemes in the 1980s to transfer out of them into personal pensions without comparable benefits.

ary, forecasts that it could be as high as £22 billion. Credit Lyonnais says NU has set aside £83 million as a provision to meet its mis-selling expenses, but calculates that the overall cost could be as high as £140 million. The report says that the funds owned by policyholders will meet all the costs and shareholders will not feel any of the pain. Craig Bourke, author of the report, said this was because all the mis-selling took place before NU demutualised last June. The cost of the pensions review.

both for unit-linked policies as well as the with-profit policies which were sold, is being charged wholly to the free assets of NU's with-profits life fund. These free assets are the funds deemed by actuaries to be money over and above what is needed to meet policyholders' reasonable expectations of payouts on their policies. Mr Bourke said: "Although in theory NU policyholders should not see any difference in their bonus payments, in reality the amount of free assets available is smaller and the fund will not have as much room to manoeuvre when making investments. In the end, someone has to pay." NU said: "We have made provision for the pensions review and we believe policyholders will not see any effect from this."

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Bank puts organ student in blue fugue



Sara Faulkner was less than impressed by a writ for a £5 bill

Barely have final-year students put down their pens after their last examination paper than the high street banks are preparing special offers to entice the next batch of freshers to open new accounts (Marianne Curphey writes). Student banking is big business for leading banks and building societies — not because the accounts are profitable but because today's impoverished undergraduate is tomorrow's big earner. Most students stick with their first bank account when they begin a job, and few bother to change during their working lives. Banks love graduates because they can market high-margin products like overdrafts, life insurance, and personal loans to them. Now banks are going one step further and beginning to direct some of their marketing energies towards students who have left college or university.

The Royal Bank of Scotland has introduced the 1998 Graduate package designed to provide graduates with a financial breathing space between study and work. The features include an interest and fee-free overdraft up to £1,600 and graduate loans up to £5,000 with no repayments to be made for nine months. NatWest, the biggest provider of student loans and a dominant force in student banking, has, however, come in for criticism for its inflexibility by one student reader of The Times.

Sara Faulkner, 22, a senior organ scholar at Pembroke College, Oxford, has held an account with NatWest since the age of nine. During her gap year, she went travelling and forgot to pay a bank charge of £5. On returning, she received a four-page writ. Last term she exceeded her overdraft limit by £57 and lost her card when attempting to withdraw money. It took several weeks for her to obtain a new card. Then this month she exceeded her £300 overdraft limit and her request to withdraw £20 from her account was initially refused. She said: "I have just transferred my student bank account to Barclays as I have been dissatisfied with the treatment I have received. If this is how the next generation of Oxford graduates are treated, it is an unfortunate picture for the future. Following the intervention of Weekend Money, NatWest apologised for "this unfortunate sequence of events" and said it was giving £100 to Ms Faulkner "as a gesture of goodwill". It said: "We have identified errors that have been made in the handling of this customer's account and we will be taking steps to ensure that this does not happen again."

EURO LAND OF OPPORTUNITY advertisement with large text and background image of a globe.

Fidelity Investments advertisement with contact information and performance data.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

السنة 1320

FASHION



Sultry looks for simmering summer nights

PAGE 5

DRINK



The season's Top 20 bottles for less than £5

PAGE 7

TRAVEL



On the road in France: your route to the best meals

PAGE 28

ANNE ROBINSON



My dinner with the world's sexiest woman

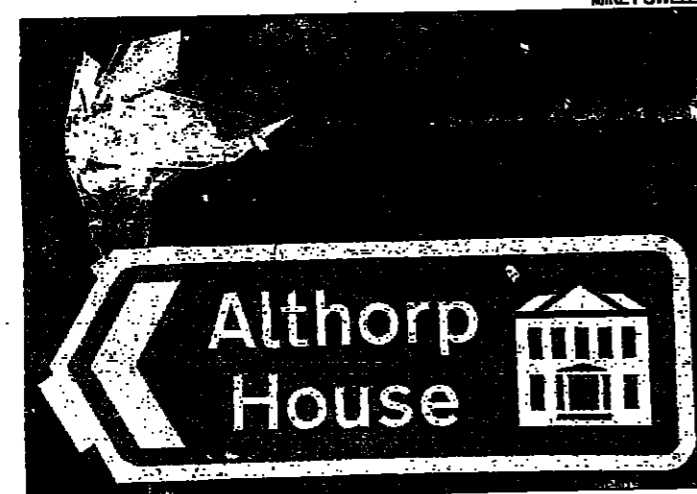
PAGE 3

THE TIMES WEEKEND

SATURDAY JUNE 20 1998

Althorp revisited by Charles Spencer

MIKE POWELL



I can't remember exactly when I realised that Althorp would come my way. Certainly I was conscious of the fact by the time of my grandfather's 80th birthday, when the local paper in Northamptonshire took a photograph of him, me and my father, and referred to the "three generations" in rather dynastic terms.



Earl Spencer as a boy with his sister, Diana, on an afternoon walk through the park at Althorp: the thought of inheriting the estate was unsettling for the young heir

Continued on page 2

SHOPPING 45 FOOD & DRINK 67 GARDENING 8-10 PROPERTY 11-14 COUNTRY LIFE 16, 17 HOME LIFE 18, 19 TRAVEL 27-35 GAMES 39, 40

0300 414133

Advertisement for Warwick Bermuda featuring a map of the island, a photograph of a person, and text: 'Take a quiet stroll around Warwick', 'Warwick Bermuda, that is, the exclusive island resort you will find in the heart of the Caribbean, is a beautiful island with a rich history and a vibrant culture. It is a perfect destination for a relaxing holiday or a business trip. For more information call 0990 779955'.



The austere exterior of Althorp House has never been called beautiful: yet in a practical sense, Henry Holland's work has helped the outward appearance of the house survive with the minimum of maintenance for two centuries

Continued from page 1
Falconry, and cruise on to the cattle grid. And there, on the right, would be the façade of a house that had been home to nearly five centuries of Spencers, and would one day, they said, swallow me up too. The Stables, with their mellow, yellow glow of ironstone, looked so much softer, so much more inviting — the warmth of the feminine, in contrast to the house's masculinity.

I have never, ever heard anyone call the exterior of Althorp beautiful. Not even architectural historians, who you might expect to stick up for their own, have defended it thus. How I have wished that my great-great-grandfather had ignored fashion and stuck with the original red-brick façade, rather than let Henry Holland impose his grey tastes on a Tudor and Stuart gem. But the work was done, and on a practical level, it has ensured the outward survival of Althorp, without too much maintenance, for more than two centuries. The trouble is, it looks like a "practical" solution. No romantic would ever countenance such a course.

So, imagine a small boy arriving after a long journey, at the most imposing of settings, with family expectation oozing from every elderly pore of every adult relation, and you will understand part of the reason why Althorp and its inheritance was not something that I overly looked forward to.

It all seems very spoilt and immature now. I appreciate this, but I had no idea that I would ever be able to impose my own tastes and priorities on something so historic, so very settled. For my grandfather was not known as "the curator earl" without reason, and, for him, Althorp was a living conservation exercise.

My memory of those days is of orderly druggets, dust sheets and uniformity. My grandmother's *joie de vivre* was limited to her sitting room, that had beautiful deep-blue, hand-painted frescoes, a slice of sophistication in an otherwise traditional stately home.

The last time I remember being with my grandmother was by the French windows, outside this room, in her rose garden, her head swathed in



Charles Spencer, aged 13, shows visitors around the estate that he will one day inherit



The Spencer siblings: Sarah, Charles, Diana and Jane

bandages after an unsuccessful operation to root out a brain tumour, giggling as we played. She died that November.

My grandfather dominated the rest of Althorp. He pored over the family records in the Muniment Room — a dusty apartment beyond the dinginess of his own secretary's garret, where 500 years of Spencer papers were amassed.

He once found Sir Winston Churchill, busy researching for his biography on their mutual ancestor, the first Duke of Marlborough, smoking a cigar in this holy of holies, and made him douse it in a glass of water.

The Muniment Room is now gone, its contents with the British Library, much of it awaiting cataloguing. I doubt whether Grandfather ever thought of anything as mundane as an index, yet that is to take nothing away from his contribution to the continuity of possession of the bulk of the contents of Althorp. He survived swingeing taxation regimes from the 1950s to the 1970s through parsimony, maintaining a standard of living that he probably felt to be below that of his birthright.

There were mistakes of course. In the 1920s, short of cash as ever and determined to finance my father's education,

he sold the great Holbein of Henry VIII for £10,000. To be fair, that must have appeared to be a fortune at the time. However, the last time I heard it valued, several years ago, the experts were speaking in terms of £50 million. Even allowing for inflation this was clearly not a good sale. Indeed, my father would often readily admit, with that wonderful twinkle in his eye, that his education, although solid, was perhaps slightly overpriced, when taking capital sales into account. In fact my family have often made the wrong choice when it has come to selling things off.

But, let's return to those early visits to Althorp. They were not particularly fun-filled occasions. On arrival, Ainsley Pendrey, the butler, would open the door and be charming, always crisply turned out in his black and white, his hair smoothed back, his smile genuine. There were not many other smiles going so, as a child, you tended to remember these glimmers of happiness.

My father and grandfather had an uneasy relationship — there were no sinister reasons for this, rather, I believe, Grandfather found it hard to accept that his custodianship of Althorp was to be limited by his own mortality. The fact that the next earl was his own flesh and blood was irrelevant. It was sad, particularly in the years following Grandmother's death, and my parents' divorce, that these two lonely men could not enjoy each other as friends, let alone as father and son.

I remember a lunch in the Tapestry Dining Room, with "the three generations" sitting there. It was silent, apart from the noise of my grandfather eating with great gusto; it was very sad, and tense. We all missed Grandmother who would have kept proceedings, if not the food, light. We were lost without her.

The food was always indescribably bad — the epitome of overcooked English ghastriness that was acceptable in the 1970s, but wouldn't even be countenanced near a prison canteen today. I know my memory isn't playing tricks when I recall, with a shudder, that the vegetables were boiled onions.

By the coffee stage I had looked at all the familiar features in this room that, for a small boy, made it human.

'Those early trips to Althorp were not fun-filled occasions'



Two generations of Spencers, Charles and his father, survey the portraits of their ancestors on the staircase

The two tapestries were wonderfully vivid with their bucolic scenes, one of gypsies and one of farmers.

My reverie and lunch ended as my father and grandfather stood up. There seemed to be relief all round that the ordeal by food was over. I walked over to Grandfather and placed my hand in his, as we left the room. Unused to receiving simple, unquestioning love the old man started to cry. My father told me, many years later, that this was a rare breaching of the tough veneer of this man, who had lost his mother at a young age and somehow never recovered.

Above them hang various flags: the one that used to capture my imagination as a boy being the White Ensign from the motor torpedo boat commanded by my hero, Cecil Spencer, my great-uncle, who I had always been interested in because we shared a birthday, fellow Taurians.

And then there is the Wootton Hall floor that looks as though it is part of the original, sophisticated design. In fact, the black-and-white-checked marble was a 20th-century addition.

Although nobody knows when the first house stood in its present position, essential repair work to the front wall of the Wootton Hall in the 1950s revealed medieval windows, that seemed to the workmen and experts of the time to pre-date the 1508 structure that was my ancestors' first home here.

Initially my family were interested in Althorp for the grazing, rather than because it might provide a suitable second home to Wormleighton. In 1486, farming huge flocks of sheep, they were only able to lease the land. In 1508, Althorp

was bought by John Spencer, and the house that you see today had its heart constructed as the family's Northamptonshire base. It took only four years for the new occupants to create a park, initially comprising 300 acres of grassland, 100 acres of woodland, and 40 acres of water.

At that stage, it was called Oldthorpe. Prior to that, in the Domesday Book of 1087, it had been catalogued as Ollertorp, which meant Olla's Thorp. My father told me that Olla was a Saxon lord.

The ancient roots of the name explain the reason why Althorp is pronounced Aw-trupp, rather than as it would appear, for "thorp" is a Scandinavian word, which would have been pronounced as throop, or perhaps thrupp. The name means

"daughter settlement" in Danish.

When I inherited the place, in 1992, the BBC Pronunciation Department sent me a letter, stating its hope that I would use the correct pronunciation. I assured it that I did not know it as anything else, and would do so.

I felt slightly let down then, at the time of my late sister's funeral, when the BBC agreed with its ITV rivals to go for "All-thorp". Even more so when it was later reported to me that an American television correspondent greeted the final moments of that tragic ceremony at Westminster Abbey by concluding with: "The coffin will now go to its final resting place, at Anwerp." Diana, however, would have enjoyed that.

You get to the stage when you accept that people can call the place what they want, so

Continued on page 3

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Wanting for nowt in Nidderdale

Janet Street-Porter tells Mike Cable why Weatherhead's is a cut above other butchers



The Pateley Bridge shop

Would you make an old man very happy? beams the weather-beaten Yorkshire Dalesman, approaching Janet Street-Porter for an autograph. In deepest Nidderdale, where the controversial media personality has had a second home for 20 years, the close-knit community seems to have taken her to its heart despite the cockney squawk and rare plumage that mark her out as an exotic foreign species.

A beanpole figure in T-shirt, shorts and walking boots, all teeth, specs and hennaed hair, she towers over the queue in Weatherhead's tiny, bustling family butcher's shop, in picturesque Pateley Bridge's steep, narrow high street.

Her presence here is startling — and not just because she stands out from the farmers' wives and other country folk who come from miles around to buy their local meat from a shop that has been in the same family for 122 years.

There is also the fact that she somehow has the look of a vegetarian. "Nah," she says, ordering a home-made pork pie, some black pudding and half a leg of lamb ("Not the pointy end — the uver arf", she adds loudly). "I used to talk to Linda McCartney about meat, but I could never be persuaded to give it up."

A Groucho Club habituée who is also honorary vice-president of the Ramblers Association, she has always seemed to take delight in cultivating an image that is a mass of apparent contradictions.

She is the trendy townie with an ultra-modern architect-designed pad in Clerkenwell and a wardrobe full of designer labels who is equally at home in a cosy country cottage with oak beams, squashy sofas and an Aga, where she shops around in tracksuit bottoms and used to grow all her own vegetables, until it started to do her back in.

"Nobody knows the real me," she claims defiantly, adding that one of the things she likes about rural North Yorkshire is that people there take her as they find her.

It was the late Frank Civanovich, a film director and the third of her four husbands, who introduced her to both the delights of Yorkshire and the joys of walking.

"Frank was filming in Richmond and I came up to join him and fell in



Janet Street-Porter is partial to grouse, pheasant and wild duck, from Weatherhead's. "Something that you know is free-range, that has had a bit of a life," she says

my favourite shop

Dennis Dobson's lamb from Beverley," says Ian, whose son Andrew runs their own small slaughterhouse.

Ian's brother, Brian, looks after the manufacturing of pies and sausages, his daughter-in-law, Judy, works in the bakehouse and his wife, Jeanette, helps out behind the counter.

Ms Street-Porter is partial to game, including local grouse, pheasant and wild duck. "Something that you know is free-range and has had a bit of a life," she says.

The same definition could be applied to Ms Street-Porter herself. Having started as a design and fashion editor on magazines like *Petticoat*, she rose, without an aitch to her name, to become the BBC's head of "yoof" entertainment and a candidate to take over as Controller of BBC2.

But instead she ended up presiding over the launch of Live! TV, an embarrassing debacle, and her falling out with Kelvin Mackenzie, fellow executive and a former Editor of the *Sun*, was recorded in a fly-on-the-wall documentary entitled *Nightmare at Canary Wharf*.

"That whole episode brought me back to my senses," she frowns, explaining her decision to quit the

love with the whole area," she recalls. The couple first bought a Georgian house in Darley. Then, shortly before the marriage ended in amicable divorce in 1988, she bought her present cottage in Nidderdale.

You'll Want for Nowt in Pateley Bridge was a *Down Your Way*-style programme she made for Radio 4, the title inspired by a remark from a local who had never been outside the area in his life.

"And it's true," she says loyally. "We've got everything we need here, including our own museum, an amateur dramatics group and, after a ten-year campaign, a cashcard machine!" Not to mention Weatherhead's.

Established in 1876, Weatherhead's is a truly old-fashioned family business. Ian Weatherhead, great-grandson of the founder, buys direct from local farmers. "People round here don't just ask for lamb, they ask for a piece of Joe Sraey's lamb from up the road at Wilsill or

executive rat race and go back to writing and presenting. "I thought, why am I trying so hard to be an executive when I was trained as a creative person? Now I've got the life I've always dreamed of having. I look miles better, I feel really happy and I can spend half my time in the country."

Now, the accent is as strong as ever, but in other respects she does appear to have mellowed. "Maybe it's to do with turning 50, maybe it's something to do with that great long walk," she says, referring to the 500-mile cross-country hike from Dungeness to Weston-super-Mare and from Cardiff to Conwy, that formed the basis of her recent seven-part BBC television series and accompanying book. A second marathon, from Edinburgh to London, is already being planned for later this summer.

"That's the nearest you get to seeing what I'm really like," adds the rambler who walks primarily to get away from it all, enjoying the solitude as much as the scenery. "When you're being filmed walking you can't put on an artificial face."

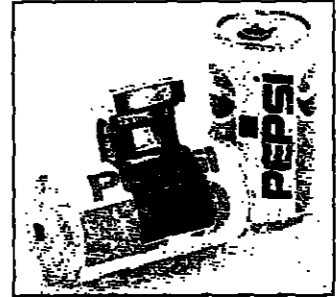
● H Weatherhead & Sons Ltd, 9 High Street, Pateley Bridge, North Yorks HG3 3AW (01423 71200) is open Mon-Sat, 7am-5.30pm.

GADGETS

WHY DO Americans refer to aluminum while we call it aluminium? Apparently because the man recording the patent in the United States couldn't spell. The Pepsi Canamera, as the name suggests, looks like an aluminium drink can, as a play to deter opportunist thieves.

This is a camera intended primarily for beach holidays. When you pack up and stroll back to the hotel, if you leave the camera behind it shouldn't immediately "walk". Instead, it should blend in with the litter dotted around the beach. It is a novel idea based around a regular 35mm compact camera. A section of the can lifts open to reveal the viewfinder, lens and built-in flash.

When travelling, noises such as the incessant wail of babies and the drone of plane engines can be irritating and prevent sleep. A solution is the Noisebuster Extreme, which looks like a small Walkman radio with a pair of headphones, through which you hear silence.



The Pepsi Canamera

The unit emits not music but synthetic white noise, and any surrounding brouhaha is noticeably deadened as certain frequencies are knocked out of human hearing range.

Although it cannot mute all background noise, it can be the difference between sleeping or not during a flight. The headphones are not especially comfortable but they are joined to the unit so you are stuck with them.

TIM WAPSHOTT

● Canamera, £19.95, from The Gadget Shop (01482 860800), Noisebuster Extreme, £89.99, from The Leading Edge (0171-229 3388).

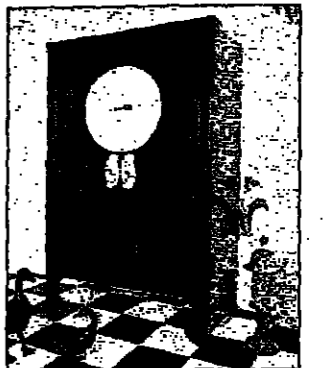
SHOP WATCH

Neal's Yard remedies, they of the cool blue bottles and soothing bath products, has a new hotline. Call it with your ailments and it will suggest an appropriate homeopathic remedy, available by mail order. The hotline number is 0171-627 1949.

Andrew Martin, the smart London fabric shop that is seriously on the ball when predicting interior design trends, has launched a mail-order catalogue. Look for its Bed and Bath collection, including cotton bed-linens with pearl buttons, from £12.50 for a pair of pillow slips (0800 3281346).

Opal London's mail-order bath and body offerings include two musts for the holidays. NOH2O is a clear, anti-bacterial gel for washing hands without water (£2.75), brilliant in far-flung destinations. And its Apres sports towel (£12.95) packs down to nothing and dries you instantly. Call Opal London on 0181-208 0708.

Sticky Rice imports capacious Chinese wedding cabinets direct from the Far East, in specially commissioned vivid green or saffron



Chinese wedding cabinets

yellow laquers, as well as traditional black. Treat yourself to a spot of Eastern chic, and get practical with it: you could stash the entire household's bedding in one of these. By appointment only, call 0171-602 7411.

The Holding Company, Dawna Walter's emporium for every conceivable storage idea, opens in Manchester next week. It's worth a visit just for the beautifully designed interior, but the true stars are all the sisal baskets, drawer organisers and myriad storage boxes that you never knew you needed until now. The Holding Company, 41 Spring Gardens, Manchester, (0161-834 3400).

UPDATE: The Daily Telegraph House and Garden Fair runs from June 25-28 at Olympia, essential viewing for interior design themes, ticket hotline 0171-373 5511. Mufti's biggest store has opened at Whiteley's shopping centre in Bayswater, London W2 (0171-792 8283), with another Covent Garden branch planned for later this summer.

JUDITH WILSON

A free figure from Royal Doulton

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Smart picks for the patio

GARDEN FURNITURE

Think about efficiency as well as good looks when buying garden furniture, writes The Times's gardening correspondent, Stephen Anderton.

Seats should be designed not to collect water, and soft furnishings should detach easily, for storage or washing.

Consider seats which will stack or fold away and choose something light enough to be moved easily. Wooden furniture will require an occasional coat of preservative, varnished finishes tend to peel.

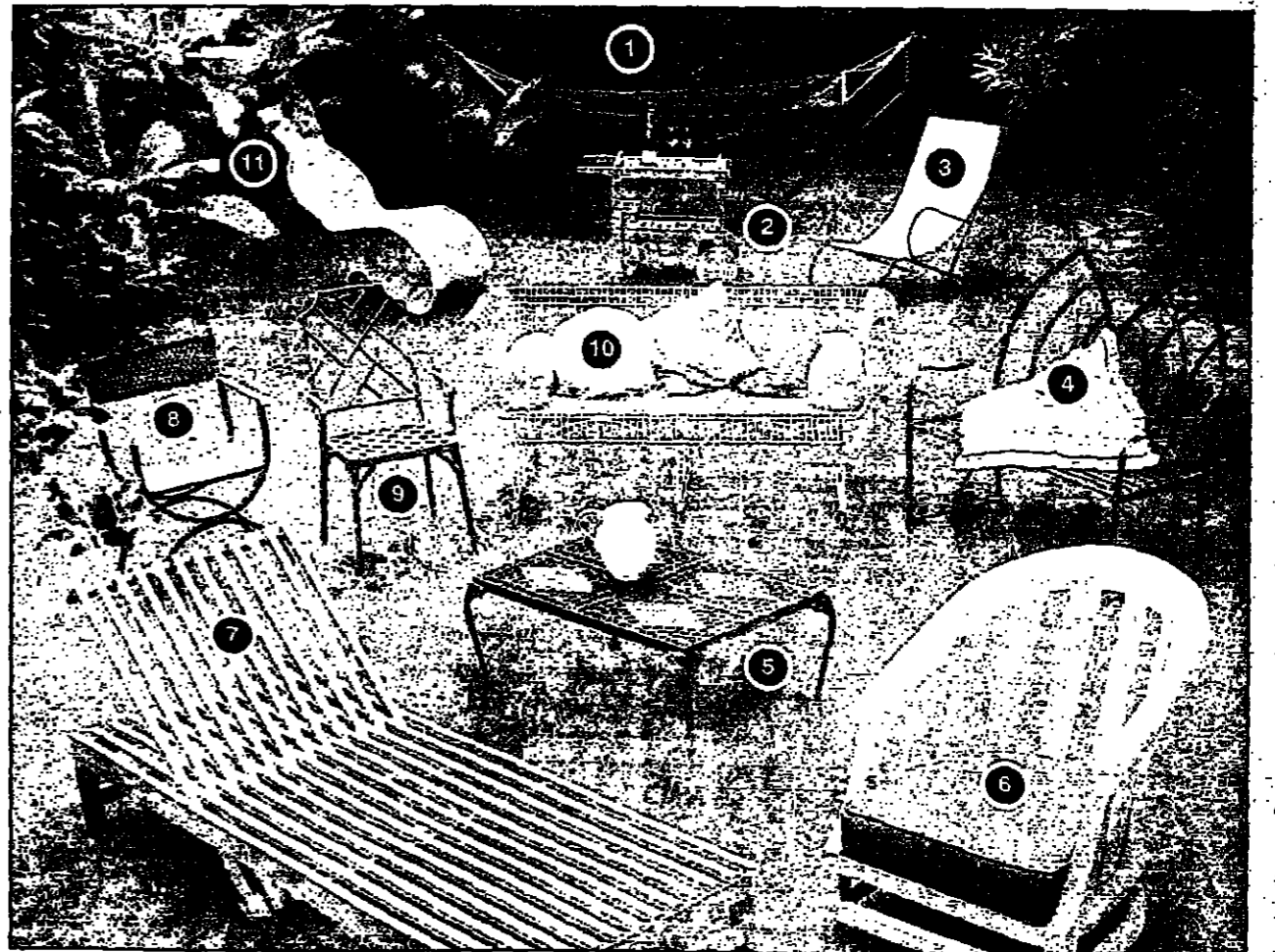
Most outdoor furniture is made of tropical hardwoods such as teak. Pick those that say they have been made from sustainable forestry.

If you can afford it, choose furniture with dowelled joints rather than cheap, bolt-together construction. In metal furniture, look for welded, rather than bolted, joints, with a galvanised framework. Tables that stand on irregular paving will be more stable on three legs than four.

Garden centres and the big shops all now stock a huge range of medium-priced and cheap garden furniture, in plastic, metal and wood.

For something rather more special in metal, try Oxley's Furniture, Lapstone Farm, Westington Hill, Chipping Campden, Glos GL55 6UR (01386 840466). In English oak, try Gaze, Burvill, Newtonwood Workshop, Newton Valence, Alton, Hants GU34 3EW (01420 587467).

Teak garden furniture is offered by Gloster Furniture Ltd, Concorde Road, Patchway, Bristol BS34 5TB (01179 315335), and by Lister Lutyens Co Ltd, Hammonds Drive, Eastbourne, E.Sussex BN23 6PW (01323 431177).



1. The portable Antibes hammock, £149.95 (L10695) can be slotted, locked and ready to use in minutes. It has a steel frame with a waterproof finish. Available in natural or green. Mail order: La Mason (0870 6004444)
2. The teak Butler drinks trolley, £295 (p&p £20), wheels easily over grass. From the Indian Ocean Trading Company (0181-675 4808)
3. Simple and elegant, the white canvas deckchair from The Heveningham Collection (01962 761777), £415, is available in black or dark green
4. The two-seater Gothic Beaulot iron

5. The four-panel Kentian coffee table (£568), £245 (£200 delivery), from Oxley (01386 840466) has a distinctly Moroccan-looking table top
6. Tub chair, £1,684, from the teak collection at Sutherland (01711-351 0775), with acrylic Persimmon outdoor cushion (starting at £80)
7. Habitat's Pandai leak lounge, £299 For an extra £99, a canvas Pandai cushion will go on top (0645 334433)
8. New from Oxley, the Lapstone

9. The classic Banksian armchair (321), £185 (delivery £80), is hand made to order from Oxley (as before)
10. Two-seater wire bench, £1,495 from Marston & Langinger (0171-824 8818), available in 24 different colours. A selection of cushions start at £45 each
11. The one-piece Cobra reclining chair, made from natural-coloured rope, £250 (Clifton Nurseries, as before) elevates your legs while supporting your head

Research by Mary Ann Parry Photograph by Des Jensen

01323 431177

The night of the drama queens

In their summer shows, the princes of Paris couture, John Galiano, Alexander McQueen and Jean Paul Gaultier, displayed how brilliantly they understand the power of salon couture: gilt-edged dressing that screams decadence yet oozes with taste, that causes a sensation without erupting into scandal.

The Paris boys don't just understand their clients' love of clothes *du temps perdu*. They understand women — our love of beads and baubles, and the power of fantasy and romance in our choice of eveningwear. They know that, although we spend our days in sleek contemporary items, when it comes to starry nights we want to hog the limelight in theatrical pieces that show off our best assets: whether it is a long neck, voluptuous curves or a wicked sense of drama. We want ruffles and bustles, dramatic décolletages and plunging backlines, brocade, embroidery and beading that harks back to the days of balls, fairytales and romance.

Elspeth Gibson, whose embroidered lace dresses have been modelled at every high-profile party this season, says our attitudes towards eveningwear have changed. "We have at last got the confidence to feel we don't have to be aggressive or macho to appear confident," she says. "The Nineties are a chance to say, 'Hey, we can dress how we want.'"

Going vintage does not mean appearing like an extra from a West End musical. It needs careful stage managing to ensure that the look is theatrical yet modern: a lace top from Voyage with an embroidered shawl from Oxfam; a Twenties fringed dress with Gucci-style heels; a Vivienne Westwood bustle with lace pants. Your current wardrobe can also be dressed up with over-the-top accessories: an embossed scarf, embroidered bag or brocade shoes.

Belle époque has gone beyond the gilded salon on to the high street: M&S, Monsoon, Warehouse, Oasis and River Island all stock lace slips; Top Shop, Accessorize, Miss Selfridge, Hennes and Kookai belle époque-style accessories. The age of theatricality is here; it is time to step into the spotlight and dress to express.

LISA GRAINGER



TOP: Neck-tie top, £700, and skirt, £805, Katharine Hamnett, 20 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-823 1002). Choker, £12.99, and necklace, from £4.99, Oasis, selected branches nationwide (01865 881988)

ABOVE LEFT: Lace dress, £260, and slip, £90, to order, Elspeth Gibson, (0171-561 0773). Diamanté necklace, from £59.99, Adrien Mann, 79 Fortell Road, NW5 (0171-284 0467). Stole with beaded fringe, £350, Pazuki, Harrods. Liberty and Harvey Nichols (0181-878 8504). Ankle-strap sandals, £40, Ravel, 184-188 Oxford Street, W1 (0171-631 4135)

ABOVE: Beaded-front slip dress, £40, Marks & Spencer, selected stores (0171-935 4422)

LEFT: Knitted dress, £110, Press & Bastyan, 22 South Molton Street, W1 (01622 763211). Beaded cardigan, £145, Whistles, 27 Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 9819). Diamanté choker, £178, Butler & Wilson, 20 South Molton Street, W1 (0171-409 2955)

Photographs by ANNA STEVENSON. Make-up by Firyal using Bobbi Brown cosmetics. Hair by Craig Taylor at Time for Martyn Maxey Hairdressing. Styling by Amandip Uppal. Photographed at Café de Paris, 3 Coventry Street, W1 (0171-734 7700)

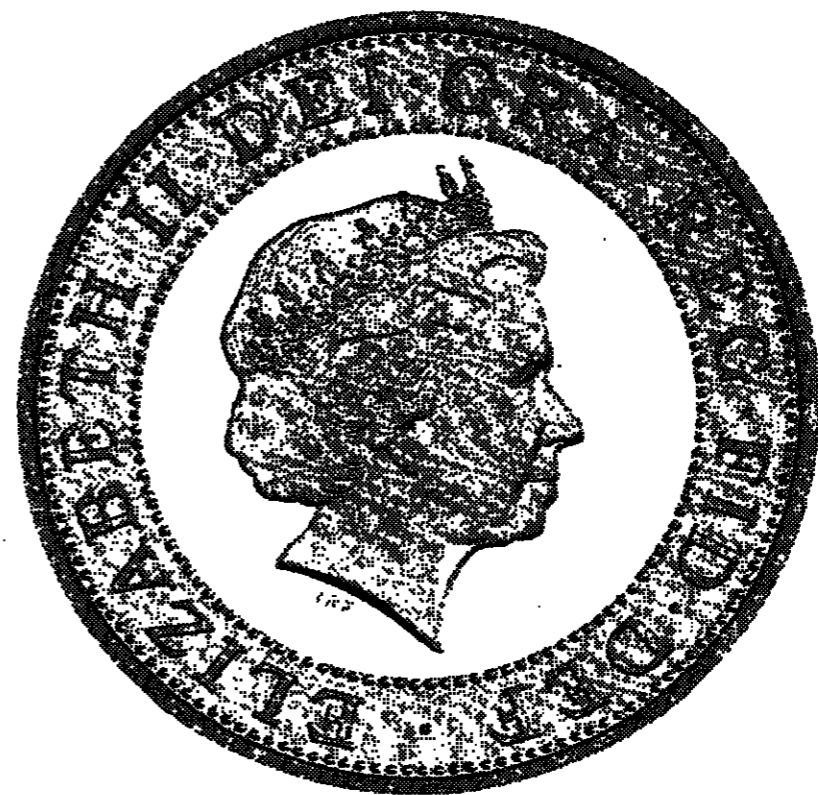
THREE OF A KIND

Antiqued evening bags — a summer must-have. LG

LEFT: Butterfly bag, £25, Ravel (0171-436 3126)

MIDDLE: Antique embroidered bag with turquoise and silver clasp, £350, Sac a Musée (0171-384 2168)

RIGHT: Beaded fringed bag, £29.99, Accessorize, selected branches (0171-313 3000)



The new Two Pound coin.
(See other side for details.)

Sue Corbett meets women who have reduced their stress levels by giving up successful jobs to start careers in gardening

Second careers are blooming

Many people come late to professional gardening because they were told at school that it wasn't a good job. They say they had wanted to go into horticulture on leaving school but had been discouraged. "It used to be seen as a dead-end job requiring low intelligence," says John McKennell, the National Trust's co-ordinator of vocational training and employment initiatives, which includes a career-ship scheme for trainee gardeners. "But gardeners need to know a lot: perspective, chemicals, measurement and plant biology."

'It's a bonus to be paid to train to work with plants'

Some of those making a career change to gardening do so because they see horticulture as therapeutic — and it is, to a point. "But if you become a head gardener, you will be quite pressurised," Mr McKennell says, "as you'll have to learn to cope with budgets, visitors and deadlines." And the Trust's career-ship scheme is aimed at the head gardeners of the future. There are eight career-ship places a year, several going to older recruits (age limit 34), such as former primary school teacher Jennifer Wedgwood, now 35 and in her first year of training at Peckover House in Cambridgeshire. "The fact that I work in a place that's so beautiful and peaceful does wonders for my stress levels," Mrs Wedgwood says. "With jobs that are to do with people, such as teaching and social

work, you hope you're having a positive impact but you can't always see it — some of those things are long-term. But with this job, if I prune the roses in December, I see the results in June, and that's satisfying."

Over the three years of their training, apprentices work on a one-to-one basis with their head gardener or as part of a team, and are released during the year for college courses leading to an NVQ. "It's called career-ship as it's the start of a career," says Mr McKennell. "At the end of the three years, 70 per cent of trainees get jobs with the Trust or other employers. Many become self-employed."

Having worked six out of ten years as a primary school teacher, Mrs Wedgwood was ready for a change. "In those ten years, the job had altered out of all recognition," she says. "Paperwork had taken over my life." In her final years as a teacher, she started gardening classes. "Then I saw a television programme about a young woman who worked at the Lost Gardens of Heligan, and I said: 'That's the sort of job I want.' Making inquiries about how to get started, I learnt about the Trust's career-ship scheme. Mrs Wedgwood thought her age would be against her. "I was 34 when I was interviewed and that was the age limit. I was also worried that I might be considered over-qualified as I had a degree and under-qualified as I hadn't a



Jennifer Wedgwood, a former primary school teacher, is now training to be a gardener at Peckover House in Cambridgeshire

FACT FILE

- Details of the National Trust's career-ship scheme from John McKennell, Cornwall Regional Office, Lanhedock, Cornwall PL30 4DE (01208 265245).
- For a catalogue of miniature daylilies write to Jan Wyers, A La Carte Daylilies, Little Hermitage, St Catherine's Down, Ventnor, Isle of Wight PO38 2PD.
- Langley Boxwood Nursery, Rake, Liss, Hampshire GU33 7JL (01750 894467).

lot of commercial or practical experience. But the children's gardening scheme I'd set up and some voluntary work with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers convinced them I was serious." She found it "reassuring that most people in gardening have time for anyone interested in their subject. "Almost everyone has been friendly, appreciated my efforts and not been that bothered by my mistakes." Her initial salary of £6,750 a year is modest, but she says: "It's a bonus to be paid to train."

For Elizabeth Brainbridge, it was all change at 50. After careers in commodity trading, advertising, and mergers and acquisitions, she founded Langley Boxwood Nursery. "I have always been a plants and gardening freak, but box didn't come into it until I couldn't buy any," she explains. "Travelling abroad gave me an opportunity to search out box plants."



Elizabeth Brainbridge with her national collection of box plants in Hampshire

After working for many years in residential childcare, former social worker Jan Wyers runs a mail-order business for miniature daylilies. What difference has this made to her life? "It's still demanding but you do have the solitude as well. Both careers have

their rewards," she says. Not content with the mail-order business, however, she has started working full-time in the new commercial nursery at the Isle of Wight's Ventnor Botanic Garden. "After a relaxing day there, I'm still out in the garden when the sun goes

down. My husband has to cook or we'd starve." But it seems these second careers in horticulture are catching. The latest news is that her husband, too, has given up his job in social work, after 24 years, to help her with the business.



■ Where a regular programme of fungicidal sprays is used, vary the make and chemical ingredient, so that the disease does not develop immunity to any one fungicide.

■ Look out for attacks of leaf-rolling sawfly on roses in enclosed, shaded gardens. Nip off and burn the leaves in mild attacks. Badly hit roses would be weakened by the removal of so many leaves, so leave them on and spray with pirimphos-methyl.

■ Clumps of bamboo will make stronger, fatter stems this year if given applications of high-nitrogen liquid feed now.

■ Water gladioli generously, and stake them with a cane if appropriate. Watch for aphids and spray.

■ Plant out pencil-thick seedling leeks from pots or nursery rows into their final positions, in well-manured, nitrogen-rich soil.

■ Give ample water to crops such as sweetcorn, celery, cauliflowers, tomatoes and courgettes. Established tomatoes and courgettes may be given regular liquid feed.

■ Thin the new season's raspberry canes to 9-10 per running yard to the row by digging up, to improve the quality of next year's fruit. Raspberries planted last winter can all but the weakest canes, to build up strength.

■ Leave a short length of hosepipe attached to outside taps so that cans may be filled standing on the ground.

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At home with The History Man

Malcolm Bradbury is selling his Norfolk mansion, but he is not severing all links with the historic property. Erica Wagner visits the novelist's rural retreat



The dining room has been made inviting with exposed beams and spacious atmosphere

There are no ghosts at Brockdish Hall, despite a rumour that Anne Boleyn was once held prisoner in the house. Of course, that was in the "old" house, where now there is only an empty paddock for spirits to tramp. The "new" house, which is up for sale, with outbuildings and more than 250 acres of arable

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

farmland, was begun in 1634 — far too late for poor Anne ever to have visited, and making it a Johnny-come-lately by the standards of the local church, which dates from the 14th century. Having been much altered

by generations of owners, this fine seven-bedroom farmhouse was originally built in the shape of an "E". "Which was, of course, very fashionable in those days," says Malcolm Bradbury as we stand in the drive. (Hard to imagine today's Elizabethans fashioning their dwellings to suit their monarch.)

The author of *The History Man* is probably better known as a novelist, critic and adaptor-for-television than as a partner in a farm. Brockdish Hall was bought by the Bradburys with their eldest son, Matthew, when he embarked 11 years ago upon his career as a farmer. Matthew lives in the house with his wife Vicky and their four children; Malcolm and his wife Elizabeth are regular weekend visitors, much of those weekends being occupied by Elizabeth's overseeing of the farm.

It is Elizabeth who is the farm's historian. I arrive at the house — from Diss station, six miles away — equipped with a thick folder about the house and its history prepared by Elizabeth from local records. It is possible to trace the history of the landholding back to 1392 when Richard II gave "Manor House, lands, woods and meadows" to Sir Stephen de Brockdish.

"Every great family in Norfolk owned it at one time or another," says Elizabeth. "And the deeds also have all the old field maps, with the old field names — 'the Ladies' Great Hill' and 'the Ladies' Little Hill', and so on."

Now the Ladies' Great Hill and the Ladies' Little Hill are diligently farmed by Matthew who has, it should be stressed, no intention of giving up farming with the sale. He has built up a business farming other people's land as well as his own — Brockdish accounts for only about one-seventh of the land he works — and he intends to expand the business; he is vice-chairman, too, of the Norfolk Farm Co-operative.

He and Vicky have made the Hall into a very inviting home, with exposed beams and bright painted walls. Viewed from different angles, the house's appearance changes radically — each wing was altered in different periods. The south front was given a Georgian facade in the 18th century ("It's only two bricks deep," Matthew says).

The Bradburys' purchase of the farm was a happy coincidence between Matthew needing land to work and his father needing a place to write.

There is a sunny, yellow-painted room off the sitting room which is now a playroom but was once the writer's study. That such a conversion has taken place is proof, perhaps, that he no longer has the time to come here so often from his home in Norwich — which is part of the reason for



Malcolm Bradbury outside Brockdish Hall. "Every great family in Norfolk owned it at one time or another," says his wife Elizabeth

HOME SLAP

HOUSE PRICES in England and Wales went up 9.4 per cent over the year to the first quarter, according to the Land Registry. The average price was £79,715 compared with £72,900 a year ago. House prices gained only 0.6 per cent in the first three months of 1998. Had it not been for a modest increase in prices in London and the South-East, prices for the rest of England and Wales would have shown a fall over the same period, says the Registry.

Home sales in Greater London were almost a third lower in the first three months than in the previous quarter. House prices in the capital went up 2.4 per cent in the first three months; the annual increase for London was 12.8 per cent, with the average house costing £121,813. The biggest increases were in Hounslow, up 23.4 per cent, followed by Richmond up 22.7 per cent, Merton up 22.5 per cent and the City of Westminster up 17.9 per cent.

Surrey (up 15.3 per cent) remains the most expensive county, where the average home costs £140,223, followed by Buckinghamshire at £127,008 (up 32 per cent) and Berkshire at £111,231 (up 15.8 per cent). The lowest prices were in Blaenau Gwent, where the average price was £34,319.



This three-storey two-bedroom end-of-terrace period house in Kingswood Place, near Blackheath Village, southeast London, costs close to £240,000 (Winkworth, 0181-852 0999)



A similar sum in Lincolnshire buys the Manor House, an attractive Grade II listed seven-bedroom period house in Ewerby village, 20 miles from Grantham (Brown & Co, 01205 311822)



For even less, you can buy Whitestones House, a renovated five-bedroom, five-reception room, Victorian house in 3.7 acres of woodland gardens, near Huntly with salmon fishing on the river Isla (Strutt & Parker, 01330 824888) CHERYL TAYLOR



The playroom at Brockdish Hall is a favourite with the Bradbury grandchildren



Statue on the Hall's roof



The seven-bedroom farmhouse was built in 1634

the sale, the other being Matthew and Vicky's wish for their children to be closer to their schools, also in Norwich, and to their grandparents.

For one thing, this house isn't a weekend home. Even were it to be bought without the attached farmland and outbuildings (it is for sale in five lots, one just the house and paddocks; there are 275 acres in all with farm buildings, grain storage and machinery

storage, and some woodland; £1.3 million is the asking price for all the lots), this is a home that ought to be lived in.

When the family bought it, it was a wreck ("If I brought my wife here to live, she'd divorce me," the builder told Elizabeth); in a six-week whirlwind of work, rewiring, plumbing and heating, it was made liveable, and now it is much more than that.

configuration of a house made and remade over hundreds of years (the bedrooms on the second floor lead into one another, and coming out of one I was surprised to find myself in the hall again), and wonderful features such as the little alcoves created on each of the three storeys.

The attic has been half converted; one side is a cosy bedroom for 12-year-old Giles, with X-Files posters on the

MARKET COMMENT

THE RAIL line between Norwich and London Liverpool Street passes through Diss and Stowmarket, transforming this quiet stretch of the Norfolk/Suffolk border into a commutable proposition for London-oriented buyers. The train journey takes 90 minutes; the 90-mile road journey down the A140 and A14 could easily take two hours.

Not surprisingly, Mike Sarson of Diss estate agent Thos Wm Gaze & Son says that the "outsiders' property market is geared to Londoners looking for a permanent country home from which they can commute, or for a weekend pad. "It's a significant market, and it has picked up a lot over the past two years," he says. "Suffolk is a stronger market than Norfolk, just because it's further south and therefore seen as nearer to London. It's a matter of perception. It can translate into price differentials between the two."

He points out that the area offers good value in comparison with, say, Kent: more than that, most of East Anglia has escaped the large-scale developments which blight the Home Counties.

IN THE Diss area, the period and country properties whose charms ensnare city buyers are mainly traditional timber-framed farmhouses and cottages dating back to the 17th or 18th centuries, ideally with an acre or two of land. "For up to five acres there is plenty of demand," Mr Sarson says. "With more, you're paying quite a lot for the land itself, which not everyone wants, so interest is much more limited."

Local prices will certainly not match the average Londoner's head. A sensitively restored four- or five-bedroom farmhouse with "the right amount" of land, in a popular village within 15 minutes' drive of Diss or Stowmarket, costs £200,000 to £300,000. Cottages may be timber-framed or "clay lump" with a brick facade, and the rooms are likely to be smaller than their farmhouse neighbours, with half an acre they cost between £120,000 and £200,000. Villages with cachet in Suffolk include Horne, Botesdale, Rickinghamland Redgrave, north of the border, New Buckenham and the Pulhams attract a lot of interest.

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The Season gives homeowners, and visitors, the perfect chance to make the best of events, says Diana Wildman



Boris Becker preferred to rent privately in Wimbledon

So much nicer than an hotel

People come from all over the world to see and be seen during the British social season. Royal Ascot finished yesterday and the Wimbledon Tennis Championships begin on Monday. Regatta week at Henley is from July 1 and the world's finest polo teams are playing their chukkas all summer at Cowdrey Park. Smith's Lawn in Windsor and Cirencester All this heady activity is manna from heaven for those who have suitable properties, near the action, to rent out.

Fears of a tenant refusing to leave should be unfounded these days because it is possible to grant an assured short-term tenancy agreement for as little as one week. Joanna Doniger runs Tennis London, an agency which deals solely in finding homes in the Wimbledon area for the players, their entourages, multinational corporations and the international media.



Wimbledon starts on Monday. Renting a house nearby for the Season means you can create a home from home and entertain friends much more cheaply than in an hotel



A riverside picnic at Henley. Renting a cottage nearby could bring in £1,000pw

RENTING OUT YOUR HOME: WHAT WILL IT EARN?

HIGH RENTS are achievable but only on well-furnished properties in good locations.

- Wimbledon: June 22-July 5, one-bedroom flat from £300pw up to £10,000pw for a four-bedroom house close to the All England Club.
- Cirencester Summer Polo Season: Smart two-bedroom cottage from £500pw. Family house from £1,500pw.
- Polo at Cowdrey Park: June 30-July 19, four- or five-bedroom family house with land and stabling, from £3,000 for the three weeks.
- Henley Regatta: July 1-8, two-bedroom cottage from £1,000pw; four-bedroom house close to the river, from £3,000pw.
- Royal Birkdale Open Golf Championship: July 16-19, three-bedroom house from £1,000pw.
- Cowes Week: August 1-8, three-bedroom town house from £700pw; four-bedroom from £875pw.
- Edinburgh Festival: August 16-September 5, one-bedroom flat from £300pw; three-bedroom flat from £500pw; five-bedroom house from £750pw.

She says: "This year, I have rented out some 200 homes ranging from a one-bedroom flat to a grand house complete with swimming pool and tennis court. I charge 15 per cent commission and always remind clients that, after allowable deductions, the rent they receive is taxable, usually at 40 per cent. One happy landlord who has rented his home for the past five years is Fraser Westbrook. He lives in a smart four-bedroom town house in Wimbledon Village, which is now rented to the Australian

‘During Wimbledon I let my house and stay with friends. This year I’m off to South Africa on the proceeds. It certainly makes financial sense’

tennis star Mark Philippoussis, for about £2,500 a month. Philippoussis competed in the Stella Artois tournament at London's Queen's Club which ended last Sunday.

Mr Westbrook says: "Last year, I housed a television crew, but this is the first time a player has moved in. I get half the rent upfront and get the rest, minus commission, on the tenant's departure. I have moved in with friends nearby and pop back once a week to do the gardening. My cleaner still goes round and she keeps an eye on things for me."

There is plenty of space to store my belongings as I live alone, so I just pack my clothes in suitcases and leave them in the attic. I am sure everything will be fine, but I am fully insured and I definitely plan to rent out again next year."

Henley residents Chris and Caroline Leeming plan to let out part of their family's rambling farmhouse, which is 100

I can get another let then I am off to South Africa on the proceeds. I always leave coffee and tea and put out twilling dressing gowns and bath essence to give a luxurious feel. It certainly makes sound financial sense for me."

But Rowena Wild of Chestertons introduces a cautionary note: "Demand for short-term rentals peaks during the social season, but landlords should not be tempted to grab the money without thinking things through. Remember that an agent's commission is high and check that things are fully insured in your absence. Make sure your agent and tenant know all the quirks of your home such as the vagaries of your alarm system and the need to adhere to the security requirements of your insurance company. Remember, too, that the furniture has to comply with fire regulations and make sure the agent takes a substantial deposit."

Carol Prior, however, is new to the rental game — this is her first season. She owns a two-bedroom flat in Kensington, which Chards markets at £1,000 per week.

She says: "During the Wimbledon fortnight I will stay with friends in East Anglia. If

That's me, addicted to moving house

Rachel Kelly meets the man who is going places — he suffers from Serial Househunter's Syndrome

The first signs are innocuous. You pause as you pass agents' windows and your heart races at For Sale signs.

The symptoms become more acute. You start itching to make an appointment to view. You become addicted to glossy interior-design magazines. You know which day the local free-press comes out — and you skip the front page and turn to the property ads. You become adept at converting sq ft to sq metres.

Finally, you confess. You are suffering from Serial Househunter's Syndrome. Your kicks come from looking around other people's houses. You are a licensed snapper, the 1980s voyeur who works out what the owners are like from their wedding photo, their sea-grass trailing or their ruffled blind. Ultimately, you may even become addicted to moving.

One such self-confessed addict is Henry Sutton, author of *The Househunter*, his third novel, which describes this modern urban disease.

"You're instantly drawn by the shiny photographs of other people's houses — especially the interior shots detailing their domestic set-ups. Serial househunting is not about a love of property, it's about a wish to change your life, to slip into someone else's shoes — without ever quite having the guts to do so."

Mr Sutton lives in an elegant Georgian square in Kennington, but the agents have already been round and he is househunting again for his third home to share with his artist wife Jane and their 18-month-old daughter Holly.

The Suttons have viewed property in Kennington, Clapham, Dulwich, Islington, Stoke Newington, Camden, Notting Hill, Ladbroke Grove and Hammersmith. They've trawled Norfolk and Suffolk, skirted Devon and Cornwall, and even looked at a cottage in Northumberland.

He says: "My wife and I have noticed patterns developing. We start nearby and then move progressively further afield before slowly returning to our neighbourhood. And once back, we might give it a rest for six months or so — or until the next house in the



Henry Sutton with his wife Jane and daughter Holly. He says: "Serial househunting is about slipping into someone else's shoes for a while"

square comes up, setting off this chain reaction."

Each time the Suttons have their house valued (just in case). "In the four years I've been living in our house Barnard Marcus has valued it three times, Winkworth twice, Alan Fraser twice and Daniel Cobb once. Each time we think they won't remember, but they do," he says.

Mr Sutton has now collected so many agents' particulars that he files them by area, by boroughs in London, and by county for country properties.

"Old particulars are just as good as new particulars and, in some cases, they are better, like wine," he says. "The photographs begin to fade and discolour, the paper scuffs and shreds, lending an air of poignancy to a distant dream, to what might have been."

Most house obsessives see property which they could never hope to buy. "Of course we convince ourselves that we could afford it or we really are serious about a particular area, but it's just delusion. As any psychologist will tell you, obsessives can convince themselves of anything."

In a bid to disguise himself Mr Sutton has worn suits or gone casual. I've taken along different friends, my sister, my mother, Mothers I reckon, faked an air of authenticity — and my baby daughter is fast becoming as serious as me.

"I have also accompanied friends and relatives on their househunting quests — a joyful experience because you can have a really good poke around without even having to pretend you're moving."

Some people actually become addicted to moving, partly to accumulate capital gain (that property is the only investment that you can borrow against). But beware the tax man. If he believes you are moving just for investment purposes, you could be liable to pay capital gains tax on any potential profit, tax which is not charged if the house is your main home.

City high-flyer Nicola Hurlick has progressed in 13 years from a starter flat to a £4 million home in The Boltons, South Kensington, via eight moves.

Emma Perring has moved ten times in the past 13 years. She has swapped Fulham for Putney. "My friends think I'm mad. In fact there isn't anyone who doesn't," says Ms Perring, who runs a company specialising in furnishing rental property.

"It's my passion. I'm always looking in estate agents' windows and thinking of different styles for a bathroom or how to redesign a kitchen. I've been obsessed with property since I was 13. I even remember asking my grandmother how much I could buy the cottage next door to."

She admits that now she has a 10-month-old son the process has become more stressful and that this could ultimately curtail her property passion. "I am finding it more difficult now as I have to consider our son and make sure that his routine is not too disturbed because of the move."

The cost of moving too is beginning to slow Ms Perring's enthusiasm. Removal fees, stamp duty and agents' commission all have to be paid for. Ultimately, Ms Perring could find that reading *The Househunter* makes better financial and emotional sense.

SMART MOVES

A 19th-century farmhouse once home to the children's author Beatrix Potter, is being offered on a ten-year lease at £12,000 a year. The Grade II listed five-bedroom house, on National Trust land in the Lake District, includes a studio and outbuildings.



The Jacobean farmhouse of Peter Tory, the *Punch* and *Express* journalist, is for sale through Lane Fox. The four-bedroom house is set in 2.75 acres and includes a lake.

The 17th-century cottage of writer Harold Albert is for sale through Keats. His death last year revealed that he and Helen Cathcart, royal chronicler, were the same person.



The Cotswold home of the late General Sir John Hackett, author of *The Third World War*, is for sale for £500,000 through Jackson-Stops & Staff. The four-bedroom house, part of which dates from 1880, was used as a flour mill until the 1930s.


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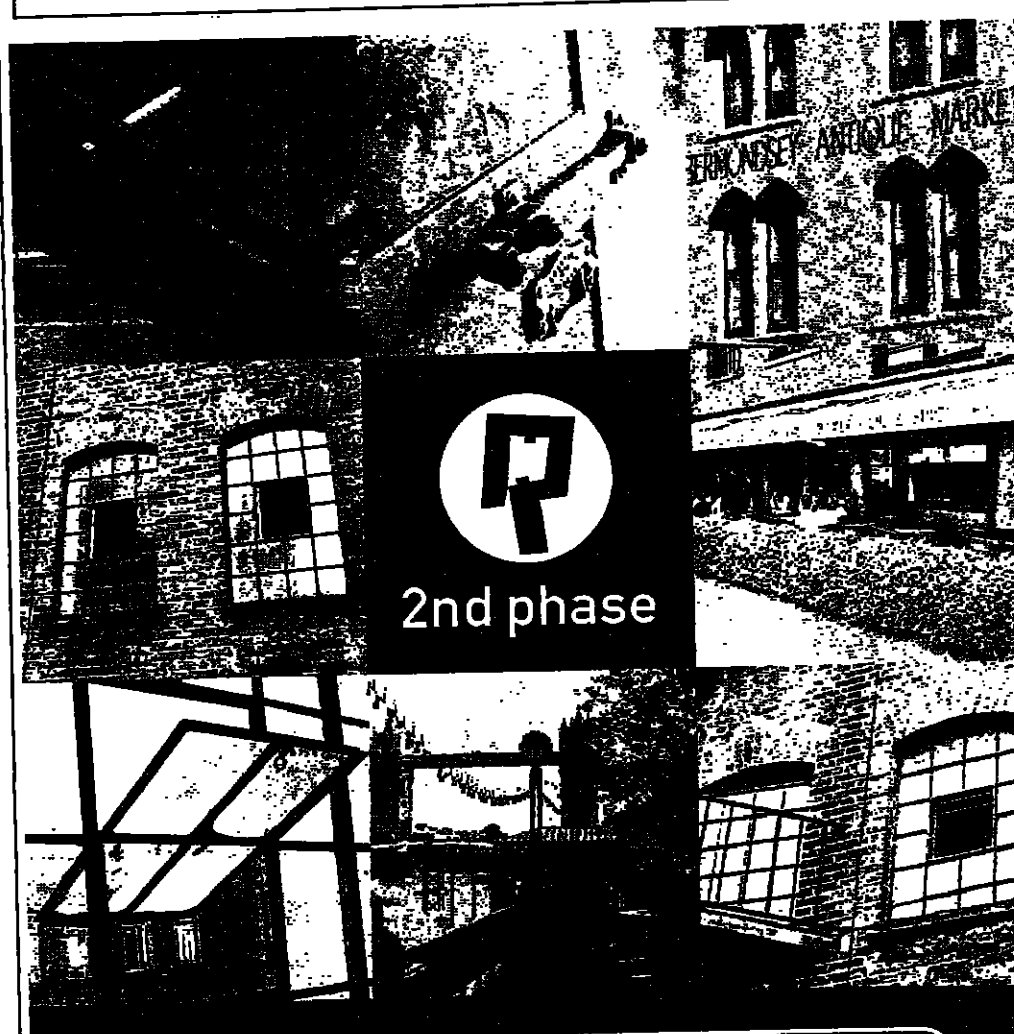
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Diary of a househunter

MONDAY Having found a house, had an offer of £108,000 accepted and organised the mortgage, we didn't expect to fall down on the valuation. According to NatWest's surveyors, the house in Tooting is worth only £100,000. Our appeal will take three days.

TUESDAY A colleague tops our under-valuation story by £80,000. She offered £390,000 on a four-bedroom farmhouse in Marston near Oxford, but her mortgage company told her that it was worth only £310,000.



WEDNESDAY In preparation for the appeal, we compare some houses nearby. One identical three-bedroom house — admittedly in better condition — has been stuck for a month at £125,000.

THURSDAY We continue to collect "comparables". It is odd to be arguing to pay more. NatWest's surveyors explain their caution: if the deal were to fall through and the property were to be resold for less, their company would be liable for the difference.

FRIDAY On the strength of the comparables, the appeal is partially successful. NatWest agrees to raise the value by 3 per cent. We offer £103,000. It is now up to the vendors. Typically, they are on holiday.

EMMA MAHONY
Next week: a response from the vendors

The art of being home alone

Buying a house on one income needn't mean being at a loss for space, says Rachel Kelly

If having lots of space is the first-time buyer's dream, the nightmare is not being able to afford more than a cramped cubby-hole. And figures from the Royal Institute of British Architects reveal that newly built houses and flats offer smaller spaces than their older homes.

Statistics from the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions show that in 1989 the average three-bedroom house measured 85 cubic metres. By 1996 that figure was down to 82 cubic metres.

The shrinking size of new houses in Britain followed the abandoning of the so-called "Parker Morris" space standards. These were set in 1961 as a guide to appropriate sizes of new homes: a three-storey house for six people should measure 1,050sq ft, maisonettes 990sq ft and flats 930sq ft. These standards were abandoned by the 1970s, as house sizes shrunk.

A Riba spokesman says: "We are building what are known in the trade as 'Noddy boxes' — typically, studio or one-bedroom flats to accommodate the growing number of 'one-person households'". The traditional family is breaking up. Government figures show that while the total number of households will increase to 23.6 million by 2016, up 23 per cent since 1991, the largest increase is in the number of one-person households. These are predicted to grow to 8.6 million in 2016, an



increase of almost 70 per cent since 1991.

Much as they would like to live in a two-up, two-down house with their own front porch, single people often find that having only one income means settling for a flat or a studio. Of the total projected increase in one-person households between 1991 and 2011, more than half will be single men and women living on their own. The other half will be the divorced, the separated and the widowed.

Keith Burns, from the agents General Accident Property Services, says: "Those looking to buy after a divorce or co-habitation tend to want something more spacious than first-time buyers. They are keen to maintain the standards and space to which they have grown accustomed. This seems to be especially true if the move involves children."



Musician Rohan Heath decided to knock down the internal walls and keep the decor and floors alike throughout to make his small cottage in Hampstead look much larger



French windows on to Rohan Heath's garden allow light to flood into the living room

Others must make do and expand whatever space they have. Space-enhancers could learn from the tricks of those who decorate show homes. Abandoning doors is one trick. Scaled-down furniture can also help. A standard double bed is 6ft long and 4ft 6in wide, but a small bedroom can look larger with scaled-down furniture. Directing lighting upwards helps, as does using mirrors and pale colours.

Heath had two downstairs rooms measuring roughly 12ft by 9ft — around 650 sq ft. I wanted to create one larger space which would be an office, reception room and dining room."

The answer was to knock down the internal walls with the help of the Battersea-based architects Stickland Coombe Architecture to create a 24ft by 20ft space. A steel column, painted to look like solid bronze, holds up the upper storey.

White walls and mirrored and shiny surfaces add to the spaciousness. So do the simple lines of the minimalist furniture — there is one red velvet chaise longue — and the decision to use natural materials and oak floorboards gives the room a tranquil, understated feel. A glass screen separates one corner, creating a study.

and french windows on to the garden means that sunlight floods in.

Architect Nick Coombe installed two industrial-type steel windows on to the garden. Mr Heath doesn't feel the need for curtains and enjoys the way the garden seems to come into the house.

"This is what we intended," Mr Coombe says. "The framed view of the garden is the focus of the room in daytime, particularly in summer."

"The budget was restricted, so I had very little money to spend upstairs. But the fact that I had created one large space downstairs meant that upstairs no longer felt so poky."

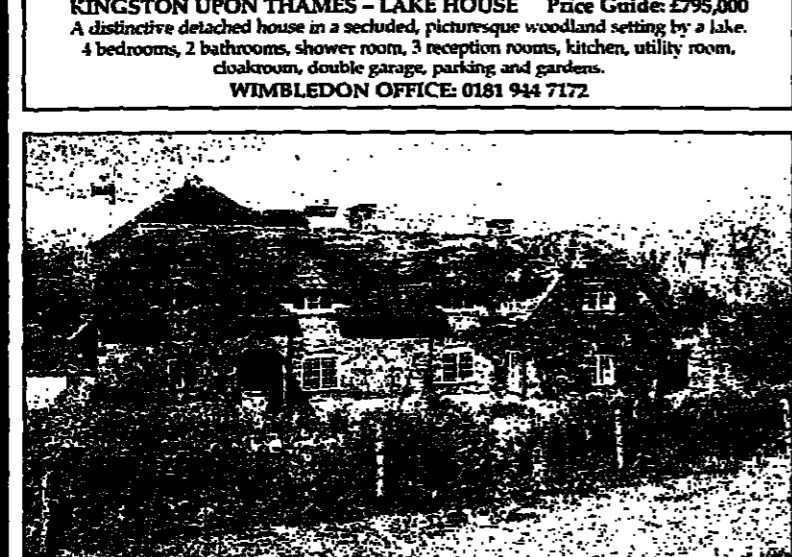
White walls again dominate upstairs, with added splashes of colour. Keeping the decor and floors alike through the house adds to the overall feeling of space.



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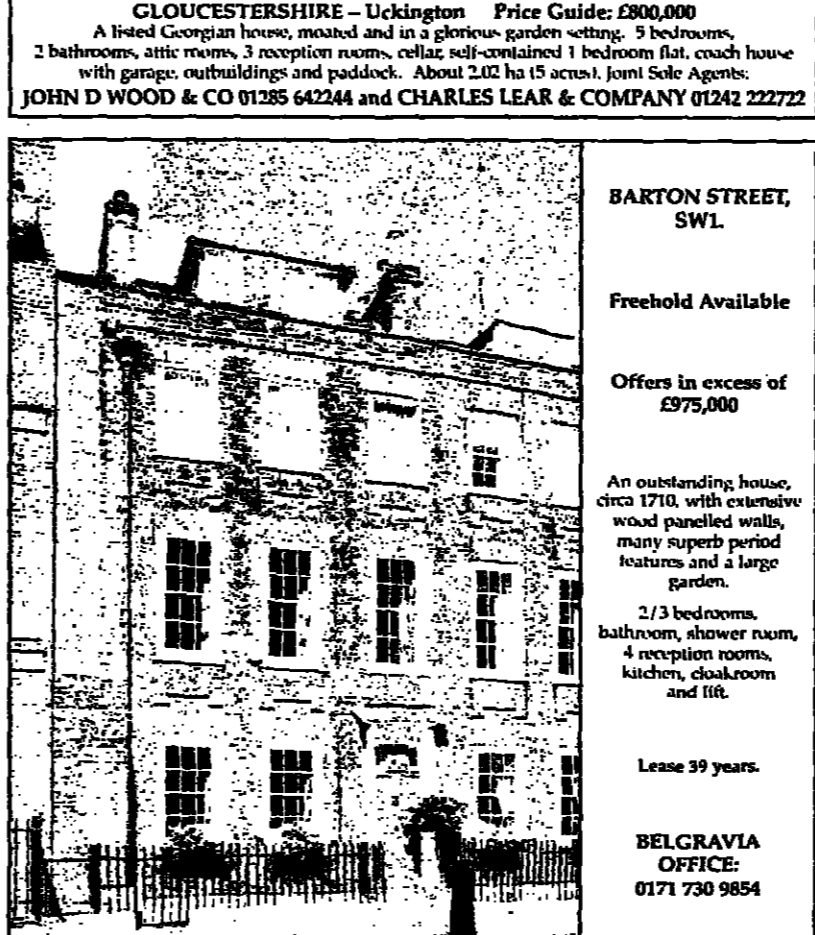
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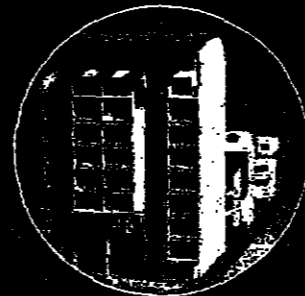
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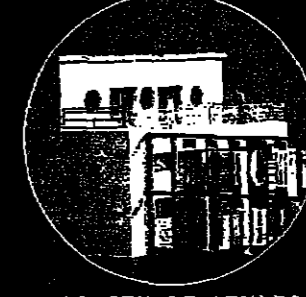
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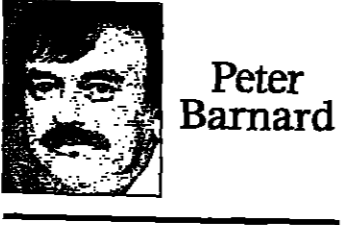
Legal comp On the The Warwick

They are regarded in the same light as football hooligans, but road-reps do not have a death wish, just a severely schizoid attitude to their wheels

Legend of the company driver

Ask an Internet search engine (as you do) for information about company cars and it will offer you more than 2,500 options...

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard is in the middle of the World Cup, company car drivers only get really heated about the contest between Mondeo and Vectra?

Driver of the Year competition, whose final is next Friday, has demonstrated for several years now that there are people out there for whom a company car is not necessarily a licence to behave like a company car driver.



Company cars are frequently a perk in which executives drive to work rather than a tool with which they actually do their work...

Some of the legends about CCDs are more like myths. I have heard attributed to half a dozen companies the one about the woman driver in a company car who...

launched a major alert after finding his car missing from the office car park. At the moment when the office security people were about to call the police, having decided that the car must have been stolen...

to have a Cavalier, sorry, cavalier, attitude to all other road users. moving and stationary. Some do, but I think it is their attitude to the car itself that is cavalier.

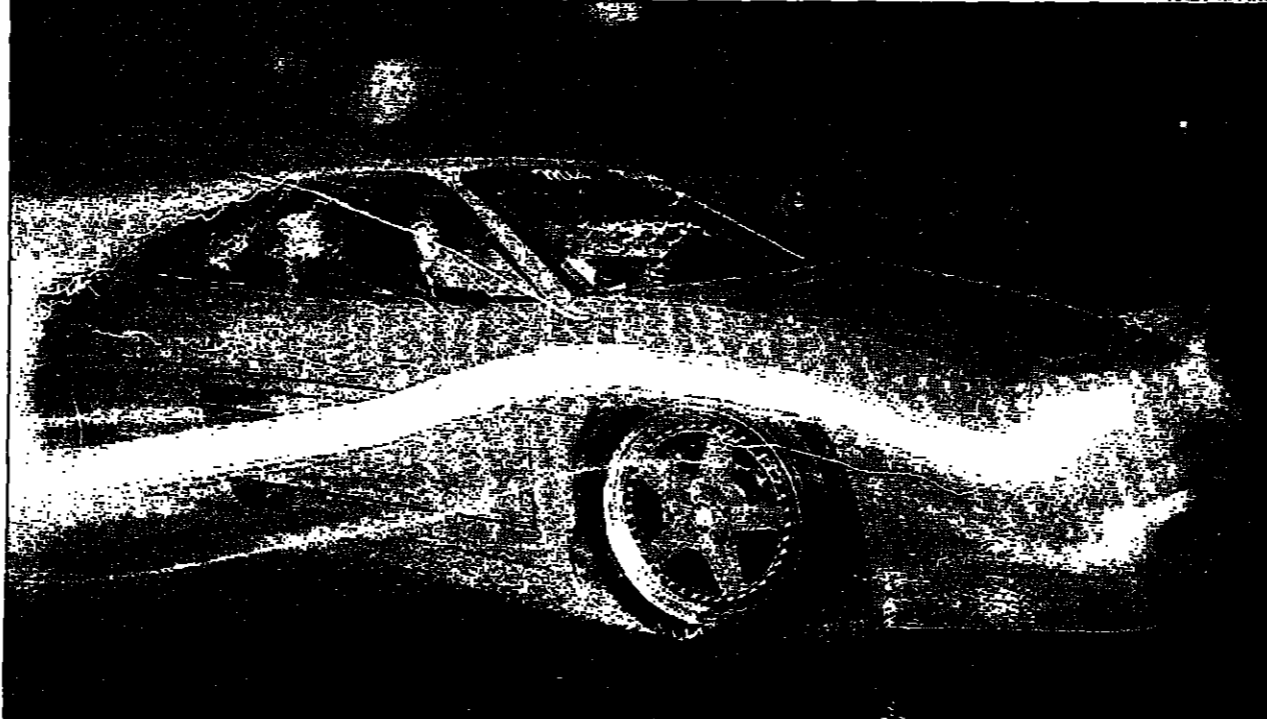
On the road with Japan's 200mph gang

Bill Thomas meets the world's best-mannered road renegades

Sunday, 2.30am, and the Wangan Kampachi motorway between Tokyo and Yokohama is still busy. Cars swish past at the 60mph speed limit on the straight, six-lane link...

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Bill Thomas and club members exchange pleasantries

mannered, intelligent and polite. He works for a large company as a producer-planner, and he works hard - 80-hour weeks are the norm.

Look under the bonnet of his Skyline and there is almost no visual evidence of any modification, which how Mr T likes it. But to achieve 650bhp, up from the standard 170bhp, little is left unchanged.

for high performance in every area. We race around tight corners, entering and exiting the trolley, and there are high-gravity 150mph sweepers, so suspension must be well set up.

None of the Mid Night members has died in the club's history, but "we have had accidents and injuries", he says. "I was in hospital for five weeks once - but no deaths."

The cost of getting lost

Joe Warwick on the A-Z of gender battles

As I studied the London A-Z on the way to a party we were late for, I decided to tell my girlfriend: "There's this new report which says men are better map-readers than women."

brain development during the foetal period - or nurture - the different travel experiences available to males as they grow up, with males being given more opportunity to travel by themselves.



Map, car, couple: all headed for a marital breakdown

women report that if they and their partner are together in the car during the day, their partner will drive. Thus, unwillingly, women are often forced to do the map-reading.

people giving directions over the phone; just give me the address and I'll find it. I tend to sit down with Sharon before we get in the car and go through the route."

Eastern Europe. At one point we were driving round in circles. Then, on the way back to Glasgow, we got stuck on the motorway in the rush hour.

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How I became a turtle midwife



Turkey 29

THE TIMES TRAVEL

Te Papa museum: it's a triumph



New Zealand 31

My bank manager will not be happy



Lisa Grainger goes for broke during 72 hours in the shopper's paradise of Hong Kong

WEDNESDAY
9:50pm: In Heathrow's business-class lounge, champagne in hand, I feel like a woman on the verge of a dream: three days and nights of Chinese food, sticky heat and, more importantly, non-stop shopping.

THURSDAY
4pm: (HK time: 3am London) Wake up irritatingly chirpy, and get more so when the captain offers me a seat in the cockpit for landing. Soon understand why Hong Kongers are excited about the Norman Foster-designed airport that opens next month (see *Travelers' Bulletin Board*, page 32). No longer will we face the terrifying descent towards mountains and through high-rises, landing 20 yards from the sea, as we do at Kai Tak airport.

6:45pm: Arrive at the Kowloon Shangri-La, a chandelier'd, five-star haven with views over Victoria Harbour to Hong Kong Island. Soon discover the first indispensable item in Hong Kong: a butler. Within five minutes of arriving, Stephen has entered my life with tea and biscuits; soon he is fixing my handbag and delivering an ironing board to resuscitate my wardrobe. 11pm: Although only a few hours since breakfast, I demolish lobster, beggar's chicken, shark's fin soup — and a little too much of a foul-smelling, 70 per cent proof alcohol called Mao Tai. Bed seems boring, so I hail a cab to visit friends on Hong Kong Island.

2am: Arrive back with lots of shopping advice, only to be assailed by four 200-plus-page booklets on the city from the HK Tourist Authority. Collapse, dazed and confused.

FRIDAY
7am: Opt for room-service coffee, pull on comfortable shopping clothes (flipflops and crossover linen trousers) and hit the ocean-front walkway. 8:30am: At the Star Ferry, pay HK\$1.70 (13p) at the kiosk and commiserate on a seven-minute ride over the bay. Over-enthusiasm doesn't pay — despite all the reading, only now do I discover that the shops open at 10am. Reluctantly pass the closed doors of Moschino and Versace and head for Queen's Road Central and

the Peddar Building (housing factory outlets and boutiques). Also closed. My "comfortable" shopping outfit is a disaster: the wind blows my crossover trousers around my head and my new flipflops have created penny-sized blisters. Make my first purchase: plasters (50p).

10:15am: The streets are buzzing with office workers, so escape into Central Market. A mistake. The first sight is a squealing pig being slaughtered. On my escape route, there are men squatting and gutting fish. The only western man I have seen this morning approaches me and asks me out to dinner. I know this is a meat market, but...

10:25am: The scores of tiny stores on Wing Kut Street are crammed with anything that shines. There are real bargains: faux-fur hair, accessories, elaborately beaded handbags (about £20), costume jewellery (four pairs of fake diamond studs for £4) and chain-mail belts (£5).

11:20am: Man Wa Lane, home since the 1920s of the letter-seal makers. Pay £5 for a jade stamp with my name carved in Chinese letters and agree to pick it up in two hours. I later realise this is daft — on a long weekend there is never time to go back anywhere. 11:45am: Walk a couple of blocks to Morrison Street, lined with Chinese medicine dispensaries, and am quickly sold a bottle of shark's liver pills (£10) by a Chinese pharmacist who sounds uncannily like the Prince of Wales.

In Shanghai Tang, the fashion emporium owned by David Tang, pounce on a pair of black leather kung fu shoes lined with lime silk (£25) and a T-shirt screenprinted with Chairman Mao's face in rubber (£16), but woefully leave behind a black silk sleeveless coolie shirt (£100). 2:15pm: After refuelling at David Tang's private China Club — a charming colonial-style Chinese restaurant, with whirring brass fans, magnificent Chinese art collection and well-heeled Hong Kongers doing business over dim sum — head for the MTR underground and travel on the wide, clean, comfortable trains to Causeway Bay. Although a prime shopping area, there are scores of empty Japanese



Designer clothing, cameras and jewellery are some of the bargains for serious shoppers in Hong Kong. A downturn in tourism means shopkeepers are keen to do a deal

stores (there has been a drop of 65 per cent in Japanese visitors, thanks to the Asian currency problems). At U2, I stock up on summer classics: two cotton and silk-mix twinsets (£36 each); a black gauze and devoré leaf-print top (£20); three cotton T-shirts (£5 each). 4:30pm: There is only so much shopping a woman can do — and today I have done it. 4:55pm: Perhaps not. Revived by the sea air, I decide to try one more shop — the Chinese Arts and Crafts by the Star Ferry pier on Kowloon. 5:15pm: A bad idea. The jade is expensive, the cheongsams are built for sumo wrestlers and the assistants are hard women with little interest in selling. Wander back to the hotel and nurse my wounds (blistered feet and bruised credit card). 11pm: After cocktails and dinner, a waterside stroll to Felix, the trendy Philippe Starck-designed minimalist bar on the top floor of the Peninsula Hotel, which is filled with young Hong Kongers in Vivienne Tam dresses or sharp suits, admiring the views from floor-to-ceiling windows. 1:30am: Haven't bought anything but drinks for about nine hours. I'm tired. Bed.

SATURDAY
9am: Randy, my guide, says we are going to see "the whole

of Hong Kong in a day". He is not joking. We drive along Shanghai Street (Hong Kong's oldest) in Mong Kok industrial area, selling household essentials from red silk Chinese wedding dresses to liquor bottles with complementary snake inside. Pass the jade market (where, I am told, it is worth buying only if you take an expert with you because the fakes are now so good) and get stuck in yet another traffic jam through one of the three motor tunnels to the island. At the gaudy Man Mo Temple, amid the antique shops of Hollywood Road, Randy tells my fortune with Chinese fortune sticks. Apparently, my prospects far fame, friends and love are fantastic. Feel instantly cheered and ready for the heady heights of the Victoria Peak, above the city. 11:55am: It is a perfect blue, clear day, and at the top of the funicular railway we can see the outlying islands, skyscrapers below, airport in the distance... and a sizeable penthouse 100ft away, with rooftop mini-golf green. Noon: A quick sampan ride around the harbour at Aberdeen, previously a charming fishing village with several thousand junks and boat people; now an almost empty little port surrounded by oppressive panelled concrete apartment blocks. Randy tells me the two floating restaurants here were prime tourist attractions; now tourism has slumped, they are floating white elephants. 2:30pm: Stanley market is a den of rip-off merchants: one linen shirt is £50; a velvet jacket 1 spotted in Causeway Bay is £15 more expensive here. 3:15pm: Stuck in the tunnel traffic again, beside a couple of Rolls-Royces. Randy says they are a bad buy — 15 cars are stolen a day, and Rolls-Royces are prime targets. 3:45pm: Ten minutes to change and be downstairs for bus to the races at Happy Valley. Miss it. Grab a cab and, hell of hells, I am back in that tunnel traffic. 8:30pm: From the private members' room, I silently wish I could leave behind the ghastly roast beef and Yorkshire-pudding buffet supper up here for the smoking, drinking, swearing crowds below. 11pm: Enter the land of the gwaio (foreign devil): Lan Kwai Fong, a couple of streets lined with bars, nightclubs and thousands of scantily-clad tanned bodies pressing flesh and downing drinks...

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Getting there: Lisa Grainger travelled on one of two daily Cathay Pacific (0171-747 8888) flights from Heathrow. Three nights' accommodation at the Kowloon Shangri-La, including flights, costs from £592 in June; £1,119 from July 1 to August 31, and £899 from mid-September with Trawelwinds (0870 7510003).

Recommended reading: The Hong Kong Tourist Association has useful brochures (00 852 2807 6543; or website <http://www.hkta.org>).

Pronner's Hong Kong (Macmillan, £9.99) includes a shopper's guide. The Automobile Association's Hong Kong City Pack (£5.99).

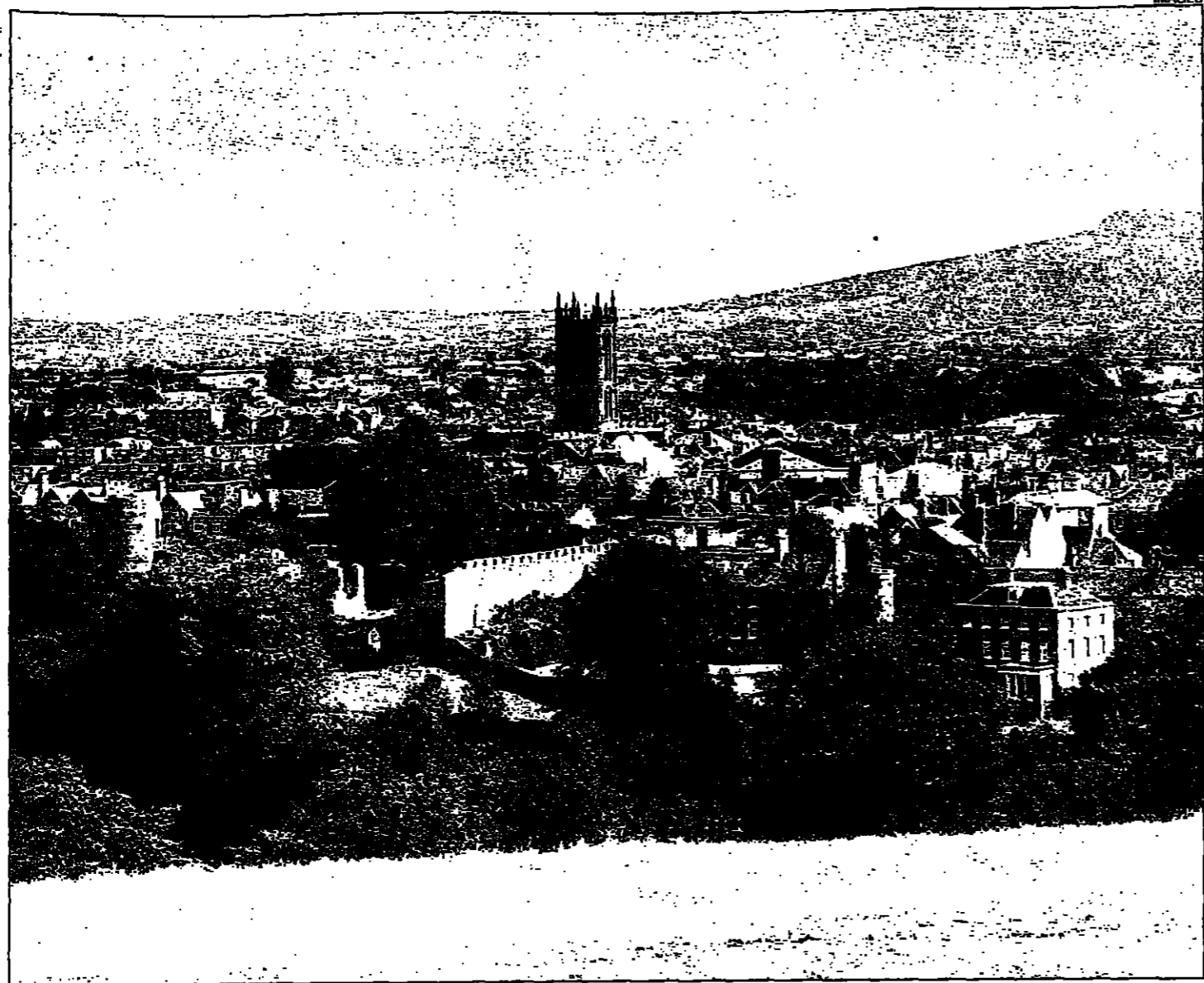
Tips: The MTR (Underground) is the best way to hop between shopping areas. Be prepared to pay an extra £1.60 to go through a harbour tunnel in a taxi. The biggest shopping malls are Times Square in Causeway Bay, Harbour City near the Star Ferry in Tsim Sha Tsui and the exclusive, and expensive, Landmark Mall in Central District. Temple Night Market, which opens at 7pm, is the best market.

Lisa Grainger with the swag from her weekend trip

Continued on page 28

Discount cruises: P&O Finn Swaner discount; P&O's discount for passengers in full at time of booking and Lunn Poly's current discount. £579 price is after discounts based on a 4 berth cabin aboard Arcadia departing 07 May 1999. For 2 adults sharing 32% discount applies to P&O 1999 cruises ending 13355 or more per person and reduced Princess 1999 cruise ending 33555 or more per person. *Free insurance applies to a maximum insurance cover of £20 per person unless noted. £150 per person long haul. No cash alternative to free insurance. Offer excludes P&O cruises 622 and 638. Offer is subject to availability and applies to new bookings only. Lunn Poly reserves the right to withdraw this offer without notice. Some offers not available in Northern Ireland. Methods of payment accepted: Mastercard/American Express/VISA/Debit/Discover. Credit Card surcharge of 4% applies. Surcharges do not apply to bookings over £2000. Terms open Mon - Fri 9am - 7pm, Sat 10am - 5pm, Sun 10am - 5pm. Full details booklet in press.

TRAVELLERS' BULLETIN BOARD



Beautiful Ludlow is the "capital" of Housman's "land of lost content". The annual two-week festival starts today

Poetic justice for Housman's glory

At Housman, whose poems have become a cult for romantics, is seen by many as Shropshire's own poet - even though he wasn't born there...

There are those who believe the true Salopian, Wilfred Owen, to be the greater poet, but Housman, who came from Worcestershire, has a stronger hold on the hearts of most visitors to Shropshire.

The principle reason for this is that so many places in the county feature in A Shropshire Lad as well as in Housman's two other slim volumes of poetry.

Ludlow, whose festival starts today, is described as the "capital" of "his land of lost content".

If you are planning to go to the festival, it is well worth also taking a tour of the poet's beloved Shropshire with its quiet churchyards and pastoral countryside.

Shrewsbury, the county town, is described by Housman as "is-

Go to the Ludlow Festival and see the Shropshire of its greatest poet, says Julian Critchley

landed in Severn stream" and its many spires gleam in the summer sun. Drive from Ludlow up the Corve Dale (Shropshire's richest farming land) and on your right are the two Clees Hills, Titterstone, and the Brown Cle, where "Abdon Burf was umbered..."

At nearly 2,000 feet, they act as a barrier between Birmingham and the rather prettier Shropshire.

On your left is Wenlock Edge ("where the wind was troubled"), an 18-mile ridge running from south of Craven Arms almost to

Ironbridge. At its foot is the village of Hugley, where "the clocks tell the time to none". Sadly, it has no spire, as Housman asserted, but it does have a tower and a full graveyard. Wenlock itself is a pretty town with a superb ruined abbey.

Perhaps the best known line in Housman is "Clunton, Clunbury, Clungunford and Clun, the quietest places under the sun" - but few people have visited them.

Clun is a one-eyed little town with a ruined castle keep and a splendid church, while Clunbury is perhaps the prettiest of the four villages, tucked under its hill. Clunton sits astride the main road and Clungunford lies to the south.

Housman's descriptions of Shropshire have entered the English consciousness. For example, we have "loveliest of trees, the cherry now..." and "On Wenlock Edge the wood's in trouble..."

But even if you are not a fan of the poet, south Shropshire and north Herefordshire are among the last unspoilt regions of England and worth visiting in their own right.

So go to the Ludlow Festival and take a look around the county made so famous by Housman. The planners - or maybe they should be called the barbarians - are already at the gates. Make the trip before it is too late.

Julian Critchley was a Conservative MP for 31 years and now lives happily in Ludlow

Hong Kong's new airport to land more tourists

The lunging descent into Kai Tak airport, passing locals hanging out washing on apartment-block balconies, has long provided travellers with an ear-popping first impression of Hong Kong.

A 'horizontal cathedral' will replace the drama of the old airport, writes Anthea Lawson

path across the South China Sea. The airport has been built on a man-made island north of Lantau Island, and the terminal was designed by Britain's Norman Foster - who has

described it as looking like "a horizontal cathedral". A new bridge - Tsing Ma, the world's longest suspension bridge - has also been built linking the island to central Hong Kong. The total cost has been about £12.5 billion and the airport has taken six years to complete.

The Hong Kong Tourist Association (HKTA) is hoping the improved facilities at Chek Lap Kok will help revive the flagging tourist industry, which has declined by 15 per cent since the handover last year.

Tourist officials attribute the downturn to the economic crisis in Asia and a backlash after tens of thousands visited to witness the handover.

Tour operators have welcomed the new airport, pointing out that Kai Tak - which had been built to take 24 million passengers a year, but had been handling more than 27 million recently - was too old-fashioned and crowded. Chek Lap Kok will open with a passenger capacity of 35 million a year, eventually extending to 87 million, the forecast level for 2040.

A spokesman for tour operator Tradewinds said: "The



Visitors on one of the first tours of Chek Lap Kok, which in July takes over from Kai Tak

only problem I can see for tourists is they will lose out on the most spectacular take off and landing in the world."

Airlines are also happy. Cathay Pacific has invested more than £15 million in

lounges and is providing check-in facilities on Hong Kong Island and Kowloon so passengers do not need to carry baggage to the airport (a journey of 23 minutes by rail, 45 minutes by road or ferry).

"We want to be able to use Hong Kong as British Airways uses Heathrow, as a base for connections," said a spokesman.

The good news for travellers this summer is that prices are

low (three-night inclusive trips cost about £300). A spokeswoman for the HKTA said: "Having flights turned away from Kai Tak was no good. Now, we really can allow Hong Kong tourism to grow."

Buyout all a matter of choice

A major shake-up of Britain's travel industry this week has reduced choice for holidaymakers, Steve Keenan writes.

The £110-million purchase of Unijet by First Choice Holidays removed another mid-sized company from the market. First Choice also bought Hayes & Jarvis, which specialises in long-haul holidays for £24 million.

The moves follow an investigation of market leaders Thomson, Airtrous and First Choice by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The MMC decided in February that their ownership of tour operations, travel agencies and airlines was not against the public interest.

The three, together with Thomas Cook, now sell four out of every five of the 15 million package holidays sold annually through travel agents.

Peter Long, managing director of First Choice, said: "There will always be a good market for customers. There is no advantage in having a price war, but there is as much aggression as ever."

However, he admitted that there was unlikely to be much discounting this summer, with bookings running eight per cent ahead of last year.

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Eurostar dry run Regular Eurostar passengers have been caught up in an alcohol ban, imposed for the duration of the World Cup. Passengers are not permitted to bring their own alcohol on to trains bound for France, although they are allowed to drink in the first-class carriages or in the buffet bar.

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The comfort of a cottage in the Lakes

The Lake District's huge popularity can make it a difficult place to find a hotel room or B&B, particularly during peak summer months when it can be chock-a-block with camera-wielding, Kendal Mintcake-munching coachloads of tourists.

Booking a country cottage, however, is one way to cope with the summer crush. Few foreign tourists know how to go about finding a cottage and tend to stay at hotels and B&Bs, so there can often be a surprising amount of availability. The other advantage is that cottages tend to work out cheaper — expect to pay around £300 for a cottage sleeping six in the summer.

There are several excellent agencies with dozens of properties from which to choose, and there are some surprisingly good deals. One of the best is English Country Cottages, which has more than 3,000 properties throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, and is one of the biggest agencies in Cumbria. It has 17th-century thatched

Renting your own place is fun and affordable — but beware the swirly carpets, says Ben West

cottages, mountain lodges, chapels and lighthouses — prices range from £186 per week in low season for a one-bedroom cottage to £1,701 at Christmas for a farmhouse sleeping 13, with an indoor swimming pool.

One of its properties is Haty Gill, a cottage in Kaber, on the eastern edge of the Lake District. The approach is enchanting. The road gives way to an earthy farm track (fine for cars) leading to the two-bed cottage (that sleeps four) situated on a hilly working farm with sheep and a couple of horses.

There are magnificent views across the Eden Valley. Signposted footpaths and bridleways are nearby, helpful if you are unsure about countryside rights of way. And the house is spotless, the kitchen adequately equipped (although there wasn't a coffee-

maker), and ample fuel is included for the open fire.

The interior, however, left a lot to be desired: clashing wall-to-wall carpeting, plain modern kitchen units and plasterboard walls created a Wimpey-new-home effect. And the marble-look breakfast bar in the kitchen area did not compensate for there being no dining room or kitchen table.

But starting at £342 per week in July, Haty Gill is not bad value — and anyway, if you're going to stay in this part of the world, shouldn't you be out walking most of the time rather than worrying whether the beige walls clash with the floral curtains?

I was particularly looking forward to staying at Middle Bank Cottage at Crosthwaite in Lythe Valley, as the brochure promised "an abundance of oak beams, pillars, stone work and flagstone floors". It's one of 36 properties offered by the Lakeland Cottage Company, a small, friendly local firm. These range from cottages sleeping two at £190 per week in winter, to the grandeur of 17th-century Rusland Hall in the Rusland Valley, costing £2,500 per week and sleeping 21.

The company offers all sorts of extras, including car and bicycle hire, newspaper delivery, chefs who prepare meals in your kitchen, even birthday cakes. Activities available include clay pigeon shooting, archery, fishing and badger watches.

Middle Bank sleeps four and, in July, costs from £270 per week. It overlooks the distant fells of Whitbarrow Scar and Cartmel Fell as well as the tranquil village's delightful church, parts of which date back to the 12th century. The nearby Punch Bowl Inn is owned by a former head chef to Albert Roux and has an excellent menu.

Again, the interior was disappointing. There are oak beams, but the flagstones extend just four feet from the front door, giving way to a ghastly multi-coloured carpet with a swirly pattern. Ill-

matched furniture (Fifties' sofas and Eighties' pine fittings) dispel the illusion further, and there was only enough hot water for half a bath.

Probably the best source of sympathetically restored holiday homes is the Landmark Trust, the charity that restores neglected historical buildings. Its sole Cumbrian property, Howthwaite at Grasmere, is an excellent example (book well in advance). Though unremarkable architecturally (it's a plain 1920s house), its rooms are light and airy, clean and well-furnished. The scenery is wonderful: Wordsworth was inspired to compose many of his best-known poems on strolls in the area. Sleeping up to seven people, in July it costs from £1,009 per week.

The excellent brochure of Rural Retreats, another agency with Cumbrian properties, devotes at least half a page to each one, with clear interior and exterior shots. Extras include welcome hampers, restaurant-standard dinner deliveries, a maid service and babysitters. Unlike most agencies, there are no fixed change-over days, so properties can be booked for as little as two days.

Eight of us tested Salesbrook at Ark-in-Cartmel, near Grange-over-Sands. This detached barn has recently been renovated to provide excellent accommodation on three floors, including a large open-plan kitchen, dining room and sitting room with open fire. Having so much space meant no one felt

cramped. The well-kept building is surrounded by fields, and good nearby woodland and beach walks.

Almost everything you'd conceivably need during your stay is included in the property, from washing-up liquid to a CD player. Thoughtful little touches abound, such as a first aid kit in the laundry room — the exception was that there was no garden furniture.

The four bedrooms and three bathrooms are up to the standard of an expensive hotel: crisp sheets on good quality beds, soaps and shampoos, superior furniture. Yet with a week costing £1,037 in July, Salesbrook costs less than a good hotel.

All in all, the properties we tested stood up well to inspection. Some of the interior decorations left a bit to be desired, but there were always wonderful Lake District views to lift the spirits.

And the prices were excellent by comparison with most hotels and B&Bs — but book as far in advance as possible.



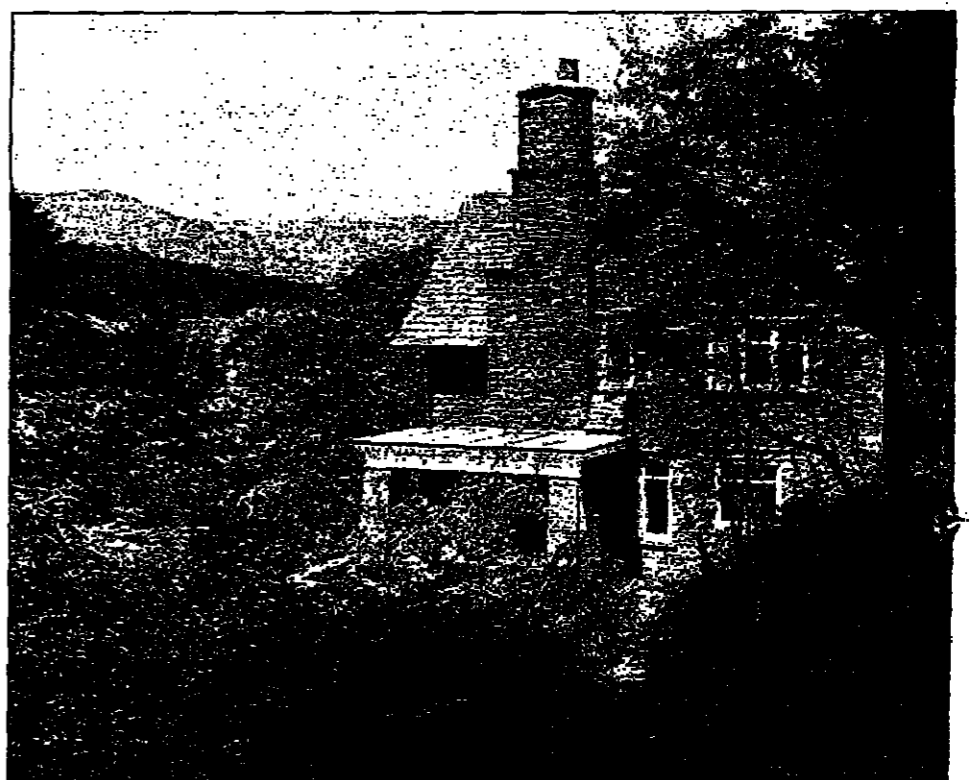
The glorious countryside at Grasmere inspired William Wordsworth to write some of his most memorable poems



Spacious and tasteful accommodation at Salesbrook



The writer's party tested Salesbrook cottage, a recently renovated barn



Light and airy, the Landmark Trust's cottage at Howthwaite sleeps up to seven people

FACT FILE

One area that few holiday-home owners or agencies skimp on is the carefully crafted wording of brochures, so it's important to ask questions before booking, to find the right property.

- Does the property have any potential dangers to children such as steep stairs or no fencing around ponds?
- If there is an open fire, are coal and wood provided? Searching these out can be costly and time-consuming.
- Are there exclusions? For example, pets, children or smokers?
- Do the owners or neighbours live next door? For some this is reassuring, but others prefer more privacy.
- Before you go be sure to check whether linen and towels are included. It's no fun turning up exhausted at midnight to bare beds. And is there a charge for these?
- Is heating included? Heating a draughty old property in the depths of winter with electric heaters can be alarmingly expensive, and tedious if a coin meter has to be fed regularly.
- Check whether there are any other costs, such as a deposit, booking fee, charges for pets, cots and highchairs.
- Remember that many agencies insist upon cancellation insurance.
- Don't rely on brochure illustrations, which may be flattering. A large-scale map will reveal any nearby busy roads and the location of amenities.
- Can you book for periods that are less than a week? Most companies offer short breaks, especially out of high season.

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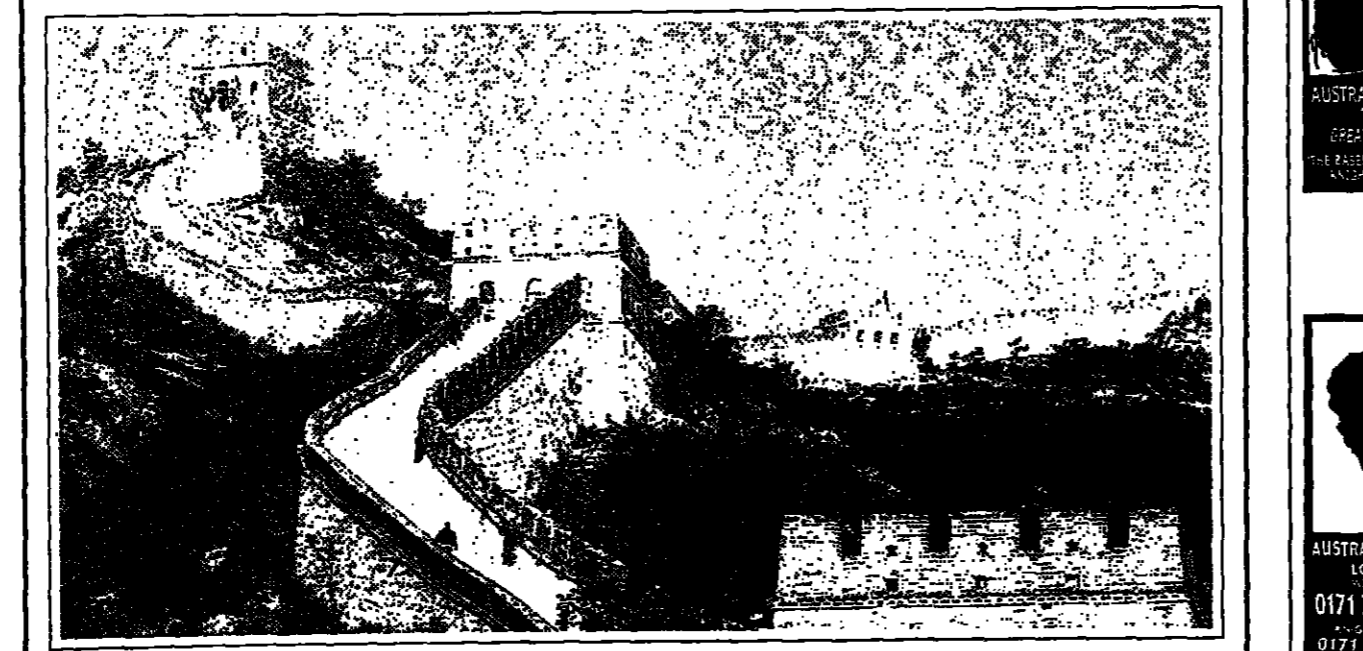
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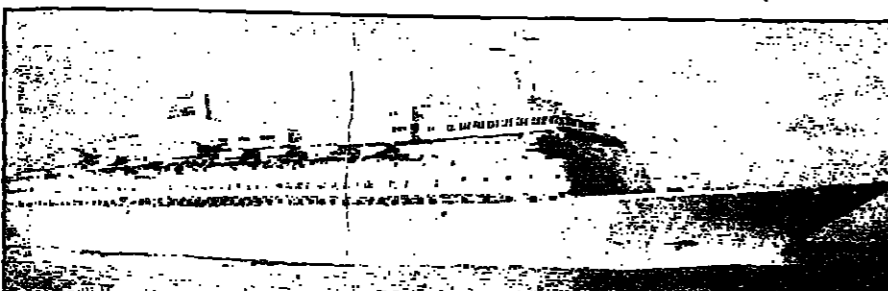
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